Oklahoma TODAY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

ORANGE POWER

PAGE 42

How OSU Became a Sports Powerhouse

BOB BARRY SR. SELECTS OKLAHOMA'S TOP 10 BASEBALL PLAYERS OF ALL TIME

MARKETPLACE: A GUIDE TO FOOTBALL GAME-DAY GEAR

TAILGATING AN OKLAHOMA TRADITION

"You should never take the desire to excel away from the human race."
—Henry P. Iba

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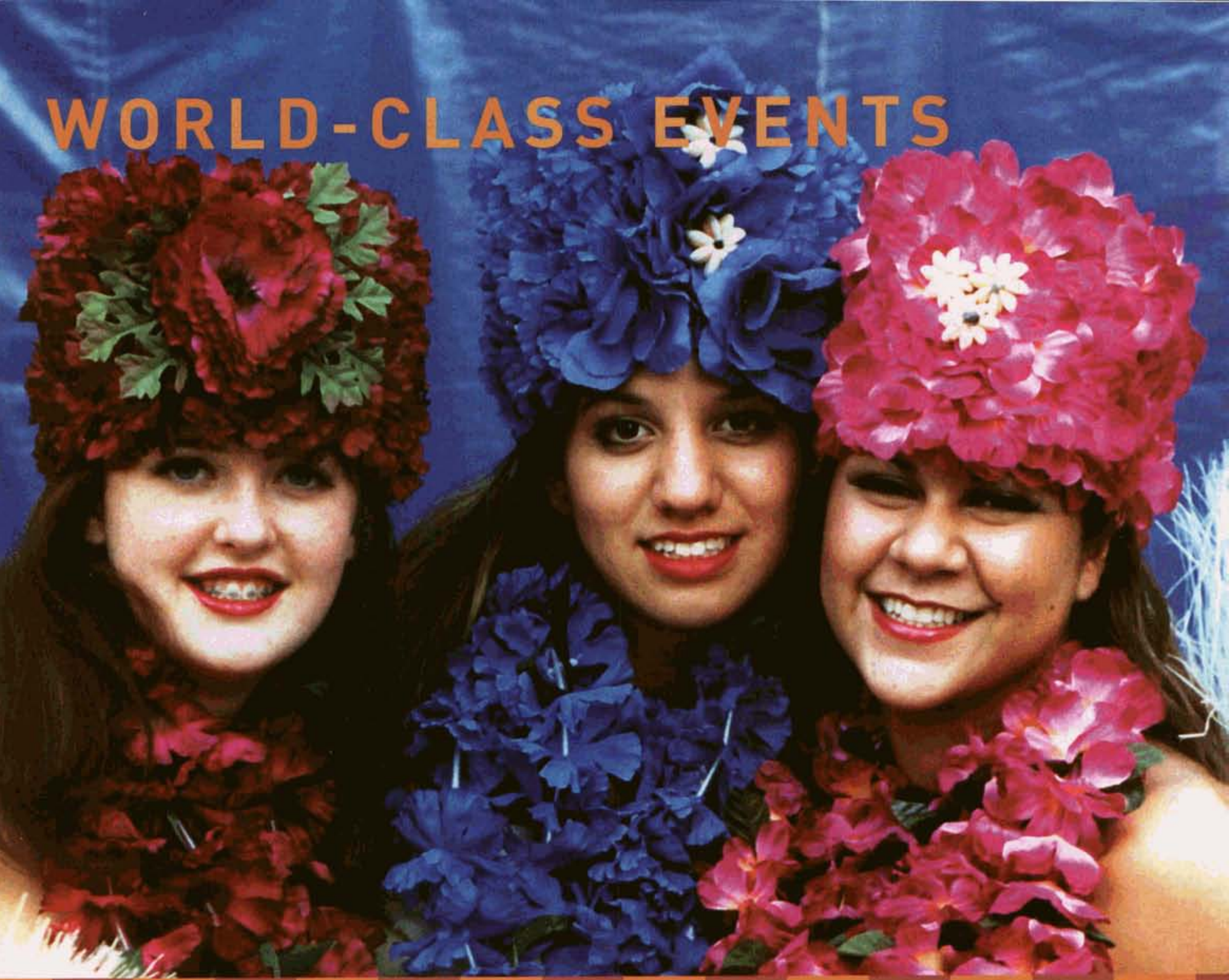
WORLD-CLASS EVENTS



Autumn offers a vast array of colors and textures. Lawton Fort Sill, Oklahoma will have much to offer as well. Choose from any of the various events coming your way:

International Festival, Sept. 23 – 26
ASA National Women's Class D Softball Tournament, Sept. 23 – 26
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Oklahoma State Harley Owners Rally, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2
Buffalo Auction, Oct. 15
Leslie Powell Art Gallery Art Show featuring Richard Ash and Liz Yarosz.

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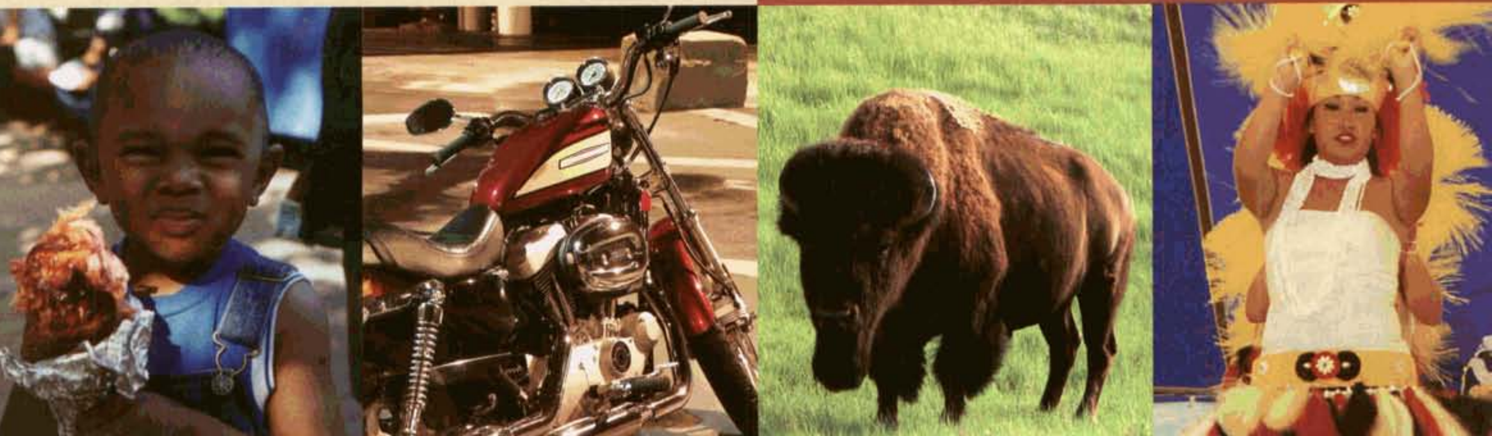

OSU's most recent award winners (L to R): first row, Cassie Mitchell, Ashleigh Hildebrand, OSU System CEO & President David J. Schmidly, Laura Kennedy Christianson, Nick Rasmussen and Lauren Manners; second row, Tom Jenkins, Shane Brown, Douglas Haynes, Kyle Jones, Joe St. John and Chris White

Scholars EXCEL at OSU

Oklahoma State University is a leader in fostering students' academic achievement

Oklahoma State University offers students a wide variety of nationally recognized programs. Students are challenged to achieve great things. In recent years, they have competed for and won many of the nation's most prestigious academic honors, including:

- 13 Truman Scholars
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- 2 Udall Scholars
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- 1 Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship
- Truman Honor Institution Designation – 2000

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Oklahoma TODAY

SEPTEMBER · OCTOBER 2004 | VOLUME 54, NUMBER 5

On the cover: A photoillustration of OSU fans at the Cotton Bowl on January 2, 2004. Photograph by Ty Russell/The Oklahoman. Left, Darren McElhaney tailgates at a Jenks/Union game. Photograph by Stephen Holman.

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The Parking Lot
Hours before kickoff, they leave the comfort of home and take to the open road, hauling grills, grub, and team pride to stadium parking lots around the state. Join us for an inside look at a special pastime called tailgating.
By Chad Love
Photography by Stephen Holman

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Cowboy Country
A peculiar germ infects Oklahoma State University students and alumni. But take into account more than one hundred years of athletic accomplishments, dozens of NCAA titles, and OSU pride, and Orange Blood Syndrome becomes infectious indeed.
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Mister Bob
Mister Bob is a man of few words with a mysterious connection to his coon hounds. In a sleepy town along the Verdigris River, he makes life more interesting for two boys.
By Kent Lee Hawkins
Photography by Kristin Viens

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Plains Spoken
A stab of recognition signals that some scenes, certain faces, and particular turns of phrase are unmistakably Oklahoma. Shane Brown's stark images demonstrate that this talented young photographer has a native understanding of our Great Plains habitat.
By Louisa McCune

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Illustration and fine art collide at the Bruce Eagle show at JRB Art at the Elms gallery in Oklahoma City's Paseo District.

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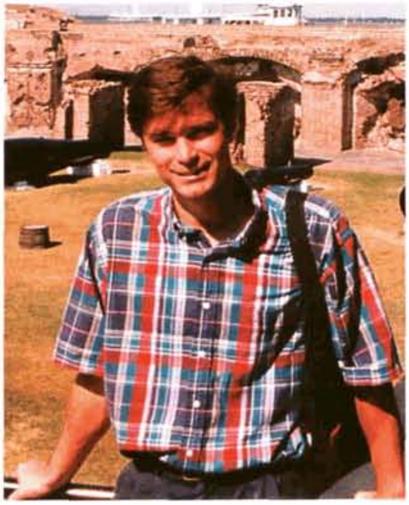
In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. In 2004, a replica of the *Niña* docks in Muskogee.

CONTRIBUTORS

Gentle characters and a nostalgic northeast Oklahoma setting confirmed **Kent Lee Hawkins** as the inaugural *Oklahoma Today*/Full Circle Bookstore Writing Contest winner for his short story "Mister Bob" (page 56). Hawkins, who grew up in the northeastern part of the state, says, "I am an Okie. I was launched out of Oklahoma by one of its boom and bust oil cycles, and like many Okies, I've never found my way back. I only hope those of us sent out into the broader world have made it a better place." A carpenter who specializes in furniture design when he's not writing, Hawkins lives in Santa Fe with his wife, Robin Berry. Baseball games, skiing, and reading fill Hawkins's free time. He is currently at work on his first novel.

ROBIN BERRY



Orange power indeed. **Scott Wigton** felt the fervor of OSU fans while writing "Cowboy Country" (page 42). "Whatever OSU lacks in resources compared to other schools, it compensates for through the sheer passion of fans, athletes, and coaches committed to high achievement. The truth is, you could pick any sport at OSU and write a book on it." Wigton, a Tulsa freelance writer, has been published in the *Tulsa World, Dallas Morning News,* and *Tulsa People*. In between diaper changes and the daily demands of child care for four-year-old son Alec and identical twin toddlers Jonathon and Luke, Wigton enjoys traveling, basketball, and family time with his wife, Lisette, a veterinarian.

"Sticky fingers and expensive cameras do not mix," says photographer **Stephen Holman**, who spent roughly ten weekends documenting Oklahoma's football tailgating culture for "The Parking Lot" (page 36). Now a connoisseur of mobile cuisine, Holman recommends the ribs at OU, the brisket at OSU, and the hamburgers at TU (and suggests bringing a roll of Tums). The *Tulsa World* staff photographer lives in Tulsa with his wife Julia, son Zane, and chocolate Lab, Max. The University of Central Oklahoma graduate's work has been recognized by the Associated Press, Society of Professional Journalists, and the National Press Photographers Association. This is Holman's first assignment for *Oklahoma Today*.

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STEVEN WALKER
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Art Director

STEFFIE CORCORAN, *Senior Editor*
BROOKE ADCOX, *Associate Editor*
TERRI COOK, *Editorial Assistant*
CHRIS COPELAND *and* JULIE LIPPMANN, *Editorial Interns*

Contributors
SHEILAH BRIGHT, KELLY CROW, BRUCE EAGLE,
JOHN ELK III, GORDON GRICE, ROBERT HENRY,
JOHN JERNIGAN, YOUSEF KHANFAR, R.E. LINDSEY,
CHAD LOVE, TOM LUKER, MICHAEL WALLIS,
and MARY LOGAN WOLF

COLLEEN McINTYRE, *Production Manager*
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LISA BRECKENRIDGE, *Accountant*
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MELVIN MORAN, JANIS RICKS, JIM SCHLIMPERT,
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To contact *Oklahoma Today* staff by email:
advertising@oklahomatoday.com
circulation@oklahomatoday.com
editorial@oklahomatoday.com

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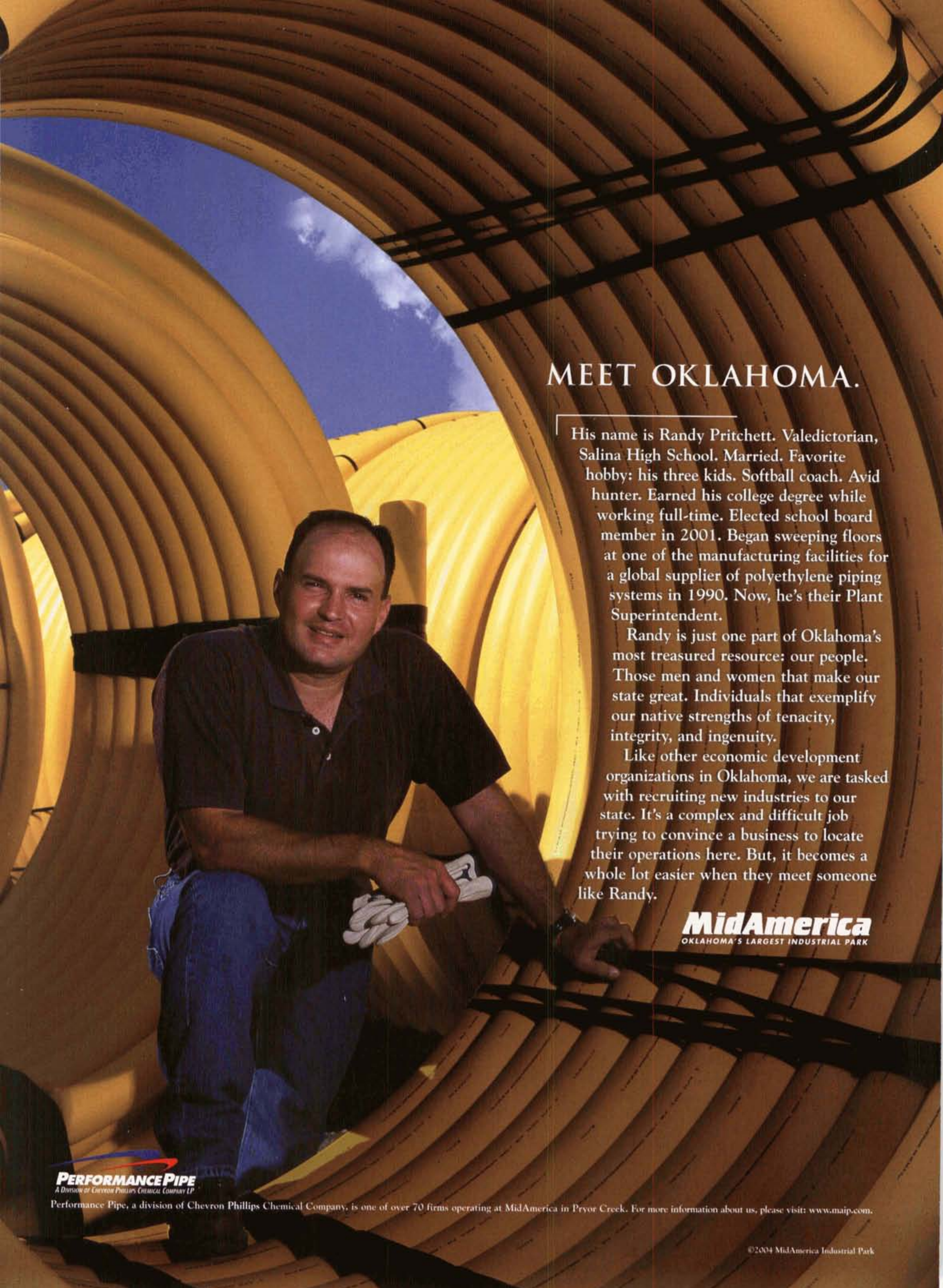

MEET OKLAHOMA.

His name is Randy Pritchett. Valedictorian, Salina High School. Married. Favorite hobby: his three kids. Softball coach. Avid hunter. Earned his college degree while working full-time. Elected school board member in 2001. Began sweeping floors at one of the manufacturing facilities for a global supplier of polyethylene piping systems in 1990. Now, he's their Plant Superintendent.

Randy is just one part of Oklahoma's most treasured resource: our people. Those men and women that make our state great. Individuals that exemplify our native strengths of tenacity, integrity, and ingenuity.

Like other economic development organizations in Oklahoma, we are tasked with recruiting new industries to our state. It's a complex and difficult job trying to convince a business to locate their operations here. But, it becomes a whole lot easier when they meet someone like Randy.

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"Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little."
—Gore Vidal

Editor's Letter

A STATE DIVIDED

A CONVERSATION UNFOLDED IN MY OFFICE A FEW WEEKS BACK between a die-hard OU fan and loyal OSU alum. Both parties—truly delightful people of goodwill and healthy intellect—casually intersected in my office, in between the fast and furious business of the day. The OU fan lodged a friendly complaint about our cover story on OSU's rich athletic history, and thus ensued a very enlightening discussion. As the minutes turned into a half-hour, I emerged dumbfounded at the hyperpassionate rivalry between these two collegial but aggressively collegiate counterparts.

The OU fan confessed that he will never spend tax dollars in the city limits of Stillwater and said he once asked his wife, "What if I'd gone to OSU?" Her response? "I wouldn't have married you." He says he is nearing a deep depression that his child's favorite color is orange. When OSU made it to the Final Four earlier this year, he says, he was sick to his stomach.

CAN WE STILL BE FRIENDS? OSU fan Mike Wilson, left, is surrounded by OU fans, including his father, Dr. Max Wilson. Head football coaches Bob Stoops and Les Miles meet after the 2001 bedlam game.

The OSU allegiant, on the other hand, will enter Norman only when work requires it. In that same conversation, she admitted—for the first time in mixed company—to having similar emotions. She never roots for OU's basketball or football teams, no matter who they compete against, though she did acknowledge a mild, state pride type of pleasure when former OU golfer Todd Hamilton won the British Open in July. Although the OU alum's anti-OSU position seemed a tad more seasoned, hers was equally fierce.

Bedlam, it seems, is bloody.

Over the years, much has been made of these matchups, and the marketing aspect of bedlam is sheer genius. Next to HBO, there's no greater water cooler conversation than the two universities and their athletic accomplishments—or lack thereof. From the Oklahoma Ford Dealers sponsorship of the Bedlam Series to the Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival's bedlam contest to the Bedlam Community Health Clinic in Tulsa, hundreds of organizations have made the best of this century-old rivalry, using it to promote their own causes, from commercial gains to the betterment of the world. Our state's cultural pastime, this collegiate rivalry is terrific, old-fashioned Oklahoma fun. When has ribbing one another in the office or in front of the television set or showing authentic support for your favorite team been unseemly? But wishing the other's failure?

Having the fairly unbiased perspective that I do—I attended a university out of state—it easily could be said that I can't relate. But I know firsthand that mean-spirited, downright childish emotion that says when one wins, another necessarily must fail. Not true. Still, one of the ugliest and most natural human emotions is contempt in the face of another's success. The fact is, both Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma are outstanding schools, worthy of collective admiration for their achievements.

Competition is good. Rivalry is fun. Passion gives life meaning. Combine those qualities with a broader solidarity on the part of fans, and Oklahoma—the state—is bound for glory.

When one wins, we all win.

Louisa McCune
mccune@oklahomatoday.com

Oklahoma State University has long been an athletic powerhouse. Today, OSU is on the verge of unprecedented success. Consider the past year alone: the Final Four as well as regular season and post-season Big XII titles in men's basketball, the Cotton Bowl in football, and a conference tournament championship in baseball. Not to mention a second consecutive national wrestling championship, the Big XII Women's Soccer Tournament title, and the varsity equestrian national title.

With 45 NCAA Team Championships and more than 140 NCAA Individual Championships to its credit, OSU is poised for even more crowning achievements in the future. One of these is the new-and-improved football stadium. So far, $61 million has been raised with "The Next Level Campaign," and with your continued support the "Next Level" is closer than you think.

IT'S TIME TO COWBOY UP!

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—Tom Mix

FeedBack

Park Place

Chad Love's tribute to Oklahoma's fifty state parks ("This Land Is Your Land," July/August 2004) was both poetic and informative. Thank you for such an excellent overview with such a positive tone.

As a lifelong resident of Oklahoma, I have a great appreciation for the unique assortment of parks our state maintains, and my husband and I have visited at least twenty-nine of the fifty, many of them repeatedly. My husband is an avid birder, so some of his favorites are Black Mesa, Great Salt Plains, Beavers Bend, and Spavinaw. My preference leans toward the historic and charming, such as Robbers Cave, Roman Nose, Beavers Bend, and Quartz Mountain with its fabulous new lodge. Of course, we love the many old CCC cabins we have stayed in all over the state.

I would like to make a comment about entry fees. We would have absolutely no objection to paying an entry fee to any of our state parks. It is our choice to use them, and it makes sense that users pay something extra while the parks are still being heavily subsidized by state funds.

Nearly forty years ago, the Oklahoma City Zoo, which had been free to all visitors since its inception, began charging admission. An interesting thing happened: Visitors began to respect and appreciate the zoo more and kept it much cleaner. It did not hurt admissions at all. Indeed, it gave value to the facility.

We also have observed that many of Oklahoma's parks are heavily used by our friends from neighboring states, who do not pay taxes to support their usage. I would be in favor of the state charging admission to all state parks, as do many states including California (which charges a parking fee to all cars). A discount could be given to state residents. Another method of funding could be copied from Arkansas, which has a one-eighth-of-a-cent sales tax, a portion of which supports their state parks.

Finally, while studying the map of state parks on pages 30 and 31, a very strong visual point was made: A preponderance of state parks are in the eastern half of the state. Only thirteen of fifty are west of I-35. It is certainly beautiful in the east, but there also are beautiful sites all over the other half. There is only one state park within an hour of our state capital, Oklahoma City. Maybe someday when our legislators add more, they will choose some closer to the heart of the state.

In the meantime, we will continue to drive the four corners of our fascinating state to enjoy this rare "collective environmental consciousness" so beautifully described by Chad Love.

Linda Kennedy Rosser
OKLAHOMA CITY

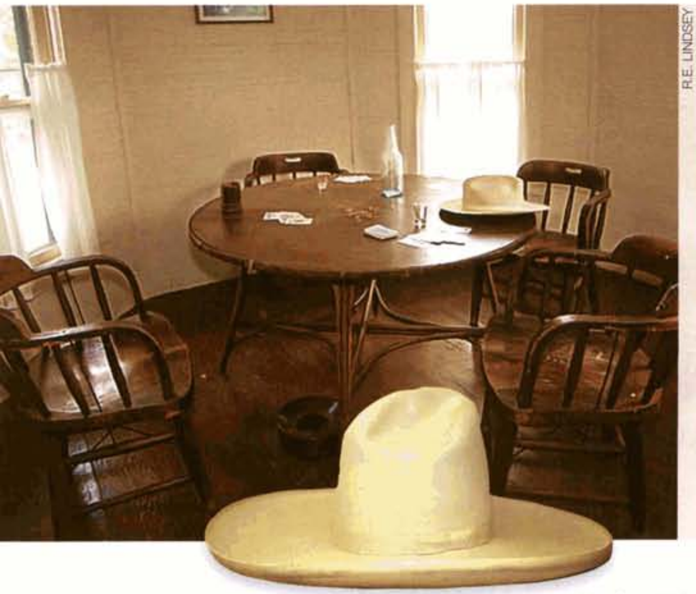
Ancient History

I noted your reference to Gloria Farley in the July/August 2004 issue of *Oklahoma Today* ("Signs of Another Time," page 26).

About thirty years ago, I invited Mrs. Farley to speak to the Pittsburg County Medical Society about the exploration of Oklahoma by pre-Columbian explorers. She gave us a spellbinding presentation about her life-long project of seeking—and finding—artifacts related to Norse, Celts, and even Phoenicians from the Old World who made it this far into the interior of North America.

I am a skeptical man, but I find it possible, even likely, that people from the Old World visited this hemisphere many times before Columbus or even Leif Ericsson. Accidents or storms easily could have cast those upon our shores, and communications were nonexistent then. I came away from her evening's presentations without any doubt about the validity of her contentions. There is a raft of evidence, and this wonderful lady has it all.

William Blanchard, MD
McALESTER



R.E. LINDSEY

WHERE ARE YOU?

AN OKLAHOMA TODAY CONTEST

Jackpot! A little Texas Hold'em on this antique poker table could be in the cards. Western actor Ben Johnson and swinging musician Bob Wills once bedded down in this turn-of-the-century Victorian building located in northeastern Oklahoma. Today, education has replaced R&R as its main function. The white hat on the table is a valuable clue, similar to a wardrobe staple worn by a famous Hollywood cowboy who once lived in this town. What is this place, and what town claims it?

Mail entries to *Oklahoma Today*, Attn: "Where Are You?" 15 North Robinson, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, or send responses to editorial@oklahomatoday.com. Include your name and town. Entries must be received by September 10, 2004. Three winners will receive an *Oklahoma Today* T-shirt. In last issue's "Where Are You?", only two people had the correct answer, the gravesite of Ka-tee Cockrum at Sequoyah State Resort Park. Winners are Donald C. Keaton of Haskell and Lyn Land of Piedmont.

East Coast Pride

I am an Oklahoma native and proud of it. I currently live in New England and subscribe to *Oklahoma Today*. I enjoy the magazine and still enjoy visiting Oklahoma. Your recent issue on state parks was wonderful. Now I have to visit all of them!

Wes Foutch
JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND

NYC to OKC

I have lived my entire life on Long Island, just twenty miles from midtown Manhattan. In 2002, my husband and I spent two years working in downtown Oklahoma City. A history teacher who had never traveled to your part of the country, I spent weekends exploring Oklahoma and have the pictures to prove it. Now back in the Big Apple, I especially enjoy recent issues of *Oklahoma Today*. As I flip through the pages, I am transported to an Oklahoma state of mind.

Janis Murphy
GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK

Modern Art

Since leaving Oklahoma some years ago and returning to western Australia, I have received *Oklahoma Today*. I so much enjoy reading these beautifully presented magazines. They keep the memories of many places alive and allow me to stay in touch with the state. If I had known thirty years ago what I know now, I would have appreciated my time in Oklahoma far more.

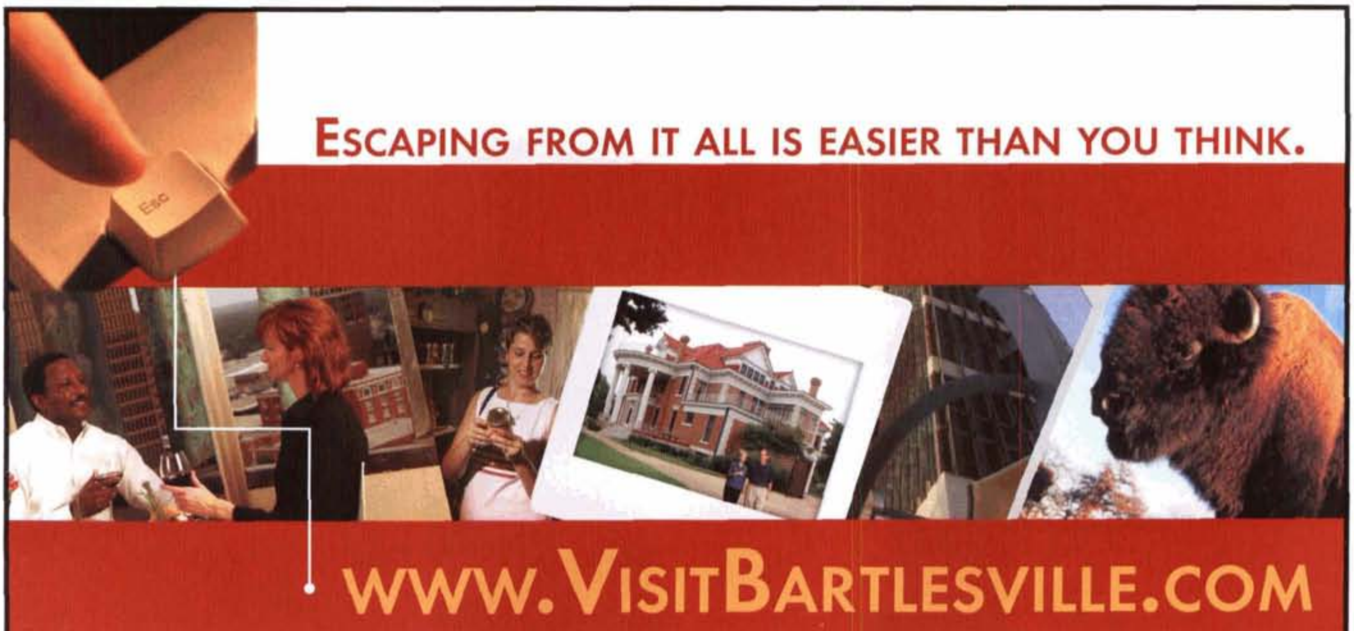
In the May/June 2004 issue, I had a special surprise, Albert Bierstadt's painting *Emigrants Crossing the Plains* ("Guardians of the West," May/June 2004). I bought a copy of that big picture when I visited the Cowboy Hall of Fame, and it has hung on my wall for thirty years.

It has been so admired and a great topic of conversation. I never tire of looking at it. To open the magazine and see this glorious picture in all its brilliance was a great delight. I didn't realize how much mine had faded until I saw the one in *Oklahoma Today*.

I wanted to let you know just how much I appreciate and learn from *Oklahoma Today*. All the best for the future, and keep up the good work.

Betty Campbell
MOUNT BARKER, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Oklahoma Today welcomes the views of readers. Letters are subject to editing and must include name, address, and a daytime phone number. Send letters to: *Oklahoma Today*, Attn: Editor, 15 North Robinson, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, or fax to (405) 522-4588. Address electronic mail to letters@oklahomatoday.com.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> "College football...is one of the biggest businesses in Oklahoma."
> —**Bob Barry Jr. in the *Journal Record***

GAME-DAY GEAR

These staples provide all the right stuff for a perfect experience in the stands.

By Chris Copeland

Photography by John Jernigan

Take a Seat ▼
If you don't intend to stand all four quarters, take a portable stadium seat along. Twid's, a Midwest City retailer, sells foldout chairs that will keep your backside clean and comfortable. They'll also add letters for an additional fee. Many sporting goods stores and university bookstores sell these and other padded seats. Red vinyl chair, $8.99 at Academy; blue nylon chair, $29.99 at Twid's, (405) 733-1757.

Clip It Good ▼
Some concession stands don't accept checks or credit cards, so it's a good idea to keep a stash of cash. A stylin' money clip saves you from digging for dollars when you finally get to the front of the line for that hot dog and soda. Team money clips are available from your favorite collegiate university bookstore. $6.49 to $20.

Bagging Game ◀
Trying to keep a handle on small items can be a challenge in the hustle and bustle of large stadium crowds. Keep your valuables safe and accessible with a team-oriented tote bag. The handles on these nylon totes rest on the shoulder, keeping both hands free for applause in case of a sudden score. $16.95 at Academy Sports & Outdoors. (405) 840-4822, academy.com.

Photographic Evidence ▲
In the nosebleed section? Bushnell's Image View binoculars will keep you close to the action. The built-in digital camera with 8X zoom will capture evidence to help you argue close calls with less-equipped fans. Use the flip-up LCD screen to easily preview images. The 16-megabyte internal memory holds 40 high-resolution or 150 low-resolution pictures and has a total of 2.1 megapixels. $149.95 at Academy.

Fan-Tastic ▶

Don't forget to wear something zany to show your true fanaticism. University bookstores have a large supply of outrageous gear in stock. Specialty stores like #1 Fan, an OSU and OU product retailer at Oklahoma City's Crossroads Mall, have enough eccentricities for the most devoted. Don't forget to wave a foam finger to show the other team who's really number one. $7.99. #1 Fan, (405) 631-1909.

Can You Hear Me Now? ▶

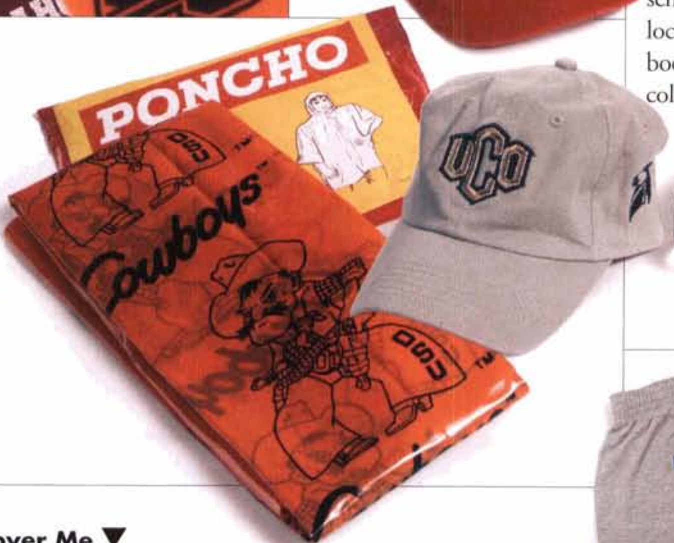
Large stadiums aren't the best places for wireless phone reception. Save your minutes and keep in touch with friends and family—play by play if necessary—within a two-mile range with Motorola Talkabout Two-Way Radios. $39.99, motorola.com.

Future's So Bright ▼

Autumn in Oklahoma offers an unpredictable mix of rain and sun. Team sunglasses, a visor, or a hat can help put a spirited spin on blocking the sun's dangerous rays; the ponchos will shield fans from quick downpours without the weight of a raincoat. High school visors and hats are sold locally. Look in university bookstores or fan stores for collegiate items. $10-$20.

Schooner Born, Schooner Head ▲

Nothing showcases a Sooner fan's devotion like a foam Sooner Schooner hat. ESPN's popular commentator Lee Corso donned this wacky hat on OU/OSU bedlam game day, November 1, 2003. Academy, $29.95.



Cover Me ▼

Cover yourself—but not your spirit—with a comfortable blanket featuring your favorite team's logo. Local sporting goods stores generally stock area high school blankets and other booster paraphernalia. Assorted colors make these fleece coverlets a favorite gift for the high school fan in your life. Twid's specializes in sporting gear and fan products with several local school logos. $29.99.

We Wear Short Shorts ▲

With temperatures in September reaching an average of seventy-three degrees, chilly morning drizzles can turn into humid afternoons, so it's best to dress in layers. Tulsa University cotton shorts—sold at the university bookstore—are great to wear under wind pants for a quick change. Women's shorts, $12. (918) 631-2206; tulsa.bkstr.com.

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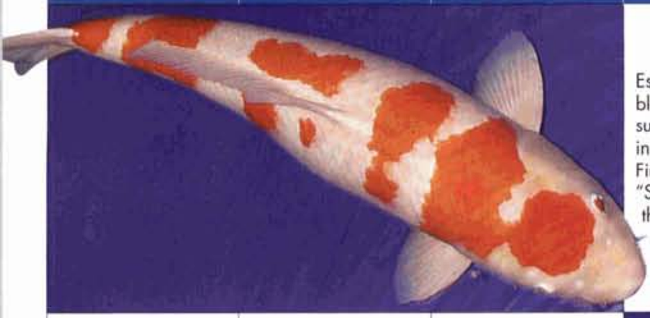
—Gene Autry

September Cools

By Emily Jerman

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Escape midweek blahs with a late-summer drive. Pop in an Earth, Wind & Fire CD and listen to "September"—with the windows rolled down.	2 This evening, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Hafer Park in Edmond. Tonight's performance, 8 p.m. Through Sunday.	3 Tangled up in Oklahoma City: For the first time touring together, Bob Dylan and the red-headed stranger, Willie Nelson, perform tonight at the SBC Bricktown Ballpark. 6:30 p.m. Tickets, $53.50.	4 The Jana Jae Fiddle Camp begins today at the Grove Civic Center. With no age limit for fiddlers and no experience necessary, you'll be bowing in no time. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Through tomorrow.
5 ▲ Learn to install a water garden and stock up on pond- and fish-keeping supplies during the annual Koi Show at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Yesterday and today.	6 Dive in to Greenleaf State Park's Labor Day End of Summer Party in Braggs. Canoe races, wagon rides, and a campfire program promise fun for all. 9 a.m.	7 ▶ Kids can learn about ducks in the Caddo tribe at Bartlesville's Price Tower Arts Center. Activities coincide with From the Earth: Early Caddoan Pottery Revealed. 10 a.m.		9 Sample samplers in Guthrie this week at the Apples & Quilts Festival, where 45 stores are displaying quilts. Stick around 'til tomorrow's finish for the apple pie contest, street fair, and quilt judging.	10 ▶ Free fairs! Check them out at the Pittsburg County Free Fair in McAlester, the LeFlore County Fair in Poteau, the Fort Cobb Free Fair, and the Ellis County Fair in Shattuck. Through tomorrow.	
12 ▶ The Guymon Fiesta celebrates Hispanic heritage today. *Andele* to the fairgrounds for a taste of Mexican food, mariachi music, and inflatable children's games. 1 p.m. Free.		14 Don't miss Feast the Eye, Fool the Eye: Still Life and Trompe L'oeil Paintings from the Oscar and *Maria Salzer Collection* at the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa. Through November 7.	15 Swing low to downtown Tecumseh's Frontier Days. Events are planned through Saturday, but don't miss the community gospel sing tonight. 7 p.m.	16 In the Tulsa area and craving a little night music? Sapulpa hosts a concert downtown tonight at Martha's Corner. 7 p.m. Free.	17 Calling all 'cue and chili cooks. Make your way to the Lake Ponca Pageant Area in Ponca City for the Cherokee Strip Championship Barbecue and Chili Cook-off. Noon. Through tomorrow.	18 Lost your keys? You may be in luck. Learn family safety tips, then watch Labs and Dobermans demonstrate search and rescue skills today at Tenkiller State Park in Vian. 5:30 p.m. Free.
19 Spend Sunday afternoon getting your heart rate up for a good cause at the AIDS Walk of Oklahoma City, which starts at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. 2 p.m.	20 Visions of cinnamon rolls dancing in your head? Get your fill of fair fare, the midway, concerts, and rodeo in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma State Fair camps out at Fair Park September 16-26.	21 ▼ Roam around downtown Oklahoma City and statewide for a glimpse of dozens of fiberglass buffalo. These decorated beasts move to private homes and corporate headquarters after September 30.	22 ▶ Three mounds line up to the autumnal equinox at the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center in Spiro. Find out why during three two-hour walks today and tomorrow. 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m.		24 Celebrate cowboy crooner Gene Autry at the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum's Film and Music Festival. Live music, poetry, and panel discussions are in store through Sunday. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. $15.	25 Local cooks dish up catfish, coleslaw, and hush puppies at the National Hook-n-Cookoff at Pelican Landing in Ketchum. Come hungry and treat yourself to live entertainment and family fun. 11 a.m.
	◀ 27 Intricately braided bridles and reins made by master rawhide braider Luis Ortega are on view at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Through January 9.		29 Wood you, could you? You definitely could buy the unique carved pieces on display at the Masters of Wood Art Exhibit at the Forest Heritage Center in Broken Bow. Through October 24.	30 ▶ Nature calls at the Bugling Elk Tour at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Keep your eyes and ears open for 600 elk as you ramble through the special-use area. 5:30 p.m. $3. Reservations required.		

POTTERY: MUSEUM OF THE RED RIVER; FAIR & SPIRO WALK: FRED W. MARVEL/OKLAHOMA TOURISM; ELK: OKLAHOMA TOURISM

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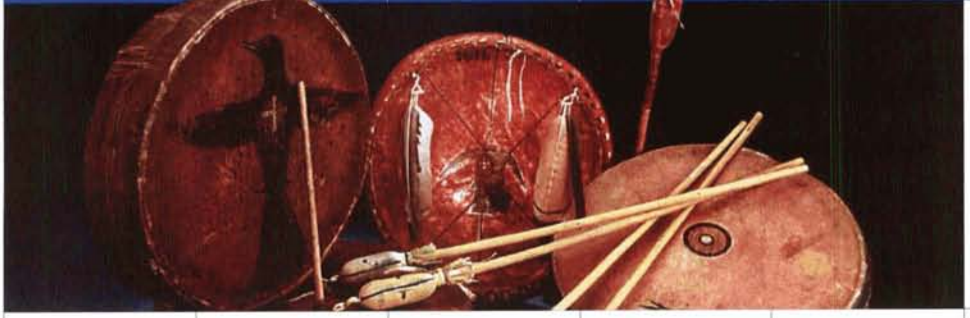
—Joe Castiglione on bedlam football

October Ghouls

By Emily Jerman

SUNDAY · MONDAY · TUESDAY · WEDNESDAY · THURSDAY · FRIDAY · SATURDAY



1
Who's who at the Boomtown Theater's production of *Blazing Guns at Roaring Gulch* in Drumright? The hero and villain of this melodrama are twins. Tonight's performance, 8 p.m. Through tomorrow.

2
Sample kielbasa sandwiches at the Oklahoma Czech Festival in Yukon. Ethnic music, dancing, costumes, and food are part of the largest free outdoor craft show in the state. 5th & Cedar. 8 a.m.

3
Area amateur steer ropers swing their stuff at the Guymon Rodeo Grounds. Ropers of various skill levels compete yesterday and today at this Elks Lodge-sponsored event. 10 a.m.

4
Help yourself to another serving of fair festivities. The Tulsa State Fair's attractions, from livestock to rides, are on tap this week. Through Sunday.

5
Book it to Oklahoma City's new Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library for great reads in grand digs. Opened in August, the $24 million facility is open extended hours on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

6
Gain insight into Middle Eastern history, from the invention of the wheel to the alphabet, at Museum of the Cherokee Strip's traveling photographic exhibit in Enid. Through October 21.

▲ 7
Norman's Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History hosts two exhibits featuring Cheyenne and Arapaho artifacts from the Field Museum collections in Chicago. Through November 28.

8
Spin your wheels to the Oklahoma Fall BikeFest in Fairview, where three days of 25- to 100-mile rides get rolling from Specht Park. Twenty dollars covers today, or ride all three days for $40.

9 ▼
Shake a leg—both legs! Race to the Tulsa Zoo Run in Mohawk Park. With a 10K, 5K, and one-mile fun run scheduled, your whole pack can participate. Registration, 7 a.m.

10
A-maze your friends with a trip to Jahn's Pumpkin Hill in Cyril. Pick your favorite from a peck of pumpkins, battle the on-site maze, and traipse around a working farm. 1 p.m. Through October 31.

12
Creative talents are on display at Duncan's Simmons Center this week at the Arts Roundup Art Exhibit and Sale. You'll find a variety of media from painting to sculpture. Through Saturday.

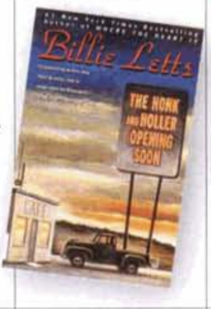
13
Trot to the State Fair Arena in Oklahoma City, where more than a thousand horses compete at the Grand National Morgan Show. Through Sunday.

15
Starstruck? The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge hosts a constellation-viewing program just after sunset. Bring your own telescope, or use one provided. Through tomorrow. Reservations required.

17
Lift your spirits at the Robbers Cave Fall Festival in Wilburton this weekend. Yesterday's classic car show and talent show are topped off with gospel music performances today. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

▲ 18
Stock up on goodies for your Halloween visitors, but don't forget to treat yourself. Bedré Chocolates in Pauls Valley and Ada offer white, milk, and dark chocolate suckers inspired by the season.

19 ▶
Whatcha reading, Oklahoma? Check out last year's winner, *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon*, or vote on the book the state will be discussing next year at okreadsok.org. Polls close October 31.



▲ 21
If bratwurst and oompah put a spring in your step, head to Oktoberfest in Tulsa's River West Festival Park. 5 p.m. Through Sunday.

◀ 23
It's a mini-monster mash and greenhouse smash! Sidle up to snakes, spiders, and other eerie creatures at the Myriad Botanical Gardens' Creepy Conservatory in Oklahoma City. 1-4 p.m.

24

31
Ding-dong! The Great Pumpkin, little goblins, and sweet-seekers are waiting. Happy Halloween!

◀ 26
Become a Renaissance person. Start with a visit to the Price Tower Arts Center's exhibit of gold, silver, marble, and bronze works by Renaissance sculptor Giambologna. Through January 9.

27
Dig out your dancing shoes and limber up your piggies. Tomorrow night brings three bands and dancing at the Oklahoma State Fiddlers Fest at the Elk City Holiday Inn. 6 p.m. Through Saturday.

28
Bib up for the Edmond Historical Society Museum's spaghetti western dinner. Pasta and buffalo chili will be served and local artwork auctioned to benefit the museum. 6:30 p.m. $25.

29
Tour Fort Washita by candlelight in Durant and listen to ghost stories narrated by a professional storyteller. Tours begin after dark. Reservations required.

30
Boomer bruiser or cowboy crusher? Only today's bedlam football battle will tell. Cheer on your team as the Cowboys and Sooners hit the turf at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater.

ARTIFACTS: DIANE ALEXANDER WHITE

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THE RANGE

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The Century Mark

Oklahoma City University is observing its one hundredth birthday at the top of the class. The Celebration of the Century centennial kicks off September 24 at 11 a.m. with the dedication of Kerr-McGee Plaza, a new university entrance. A bronze statue of OCU's three Miss Americas—Jane Jayroe, Susan Powell, and Shawntel Smith—also will greet visitors.

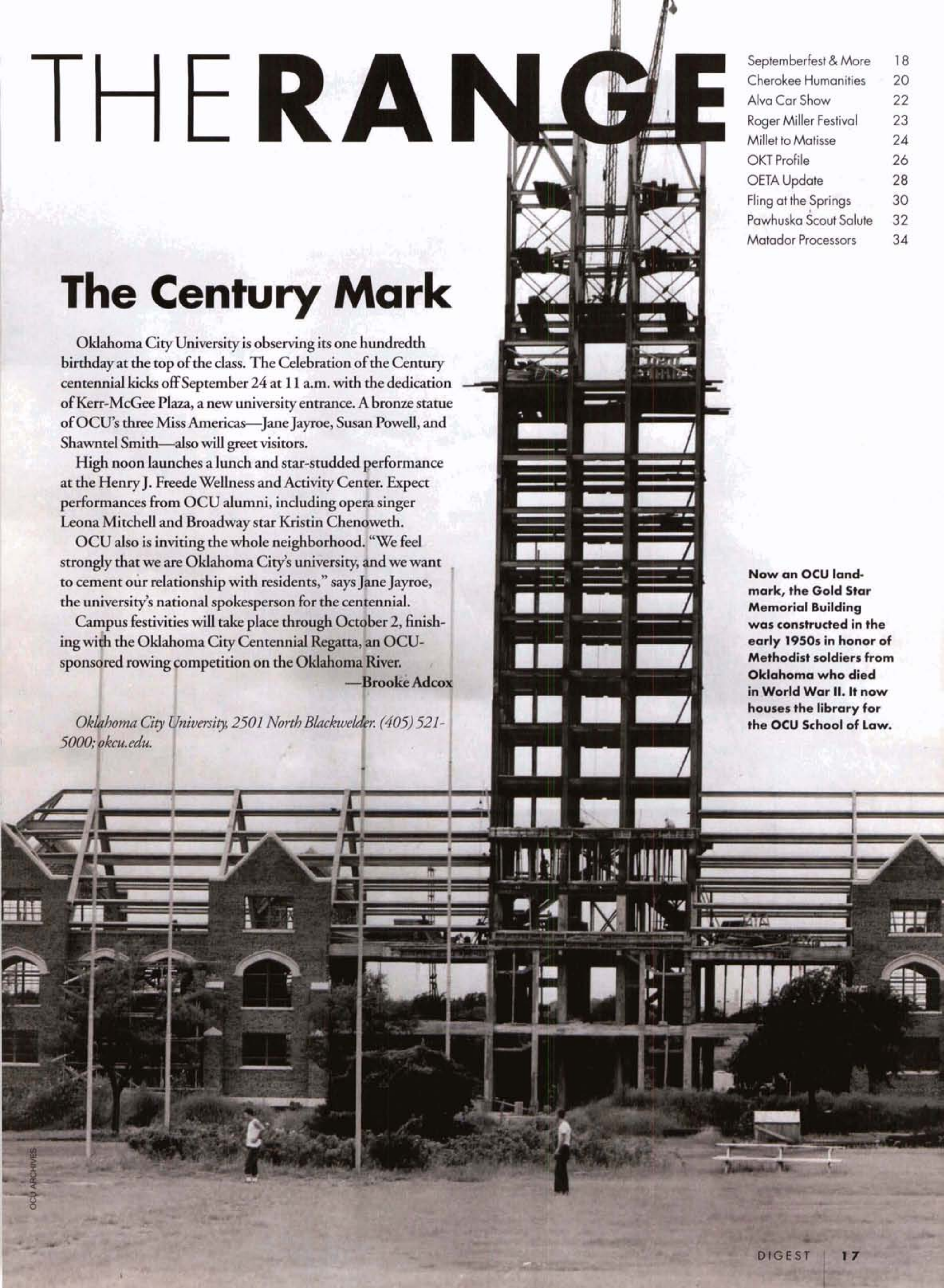
High noon launches a lunch and star-studded performance at the Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center. Expect performances from OCU alumni, including opera singer Leona Mitchell and Broadway star Kristin Chenoweth.

OCU also is inviting the whole neighborhood. "We feel strongly that we are Oklahoma City's university, and we want to cement our relationship with residents," says Jane Jayroe, the university's national spokesperson for the centennial.

Campus festivities will take place through October 2, finishing with the Oklahoma City Centennial Regatta, an OCU-sponsored rowing competition on the Oklahoma River.

—Brooke Adcox

Oklahoma City University, 2501 North Blackwelder. (405) 521-5000; okcu.edu.

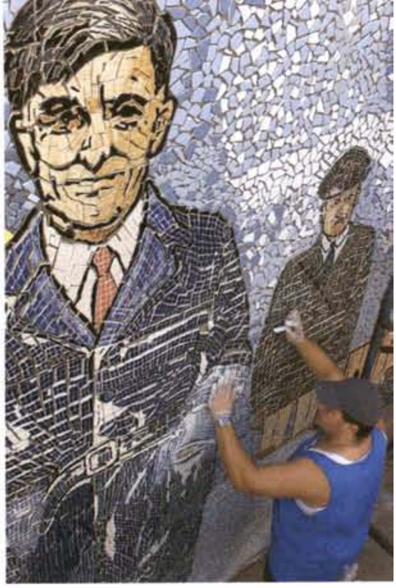


Now an OCU landmark, the Gold Star Memorial Building was constructed in the early 1950s in honor of Methodist soldiers from Oklahoma who died in World War II. It now houses the library for the OCU School of Law.

OCU ARCHIVES

FOUR BY FOUR

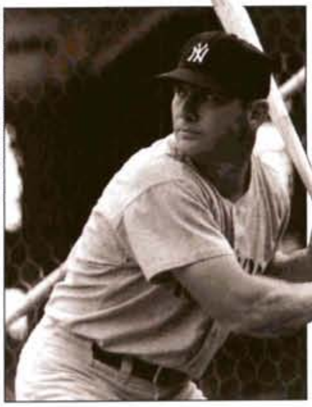
OCCC's Murals Take Shape



Students at Oklahoma City Community College have a new setting for study breaks. Four large mosaic panels thirty years in the making now adorn the campus courtyard. In 1974, former OCCC art professor Paul Ringler envisioned Oklahoma history depicted on mosaic murals. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, they were completed last March. *The Mega Hunters—The First People, Coronado's Expedition, The Battle of Honey Springs*, and *Aerospace Oklahoma*, says dean of arts and humanities Susan VanSchuyver, will last for decades to come. "When our grandchildren come to this campus, that wall will still be here," she says. —Chris Copeland

eSSENTIALS *7777 South May Avenue, (405) 682-1611; okccc.edu/ah/mosaics.*

Nothing ushers in fall like the major league baseball playoffs and the World Series, which starts October 23. Here, Bob Barry Sr., longtime sportscaster from Oklahoma City station KFOR-TV, picks his list of the best professional baseball players from Oklahoma.



NATIONAL BASEBALL LIBRARY

1. **Mickey Mantle** (1931-1995, Commerce). Mantle was the Oklahoma player with the biggest impact on the game. During his career as a center fielder for the Yankees, he had a .298 batting average and 536 home runs.
2. **Johnny Bench** (1947, Binger). Winner of ten Golden Gloves in his career with the Cincinnati Reds, Bench is widely considered the best catcher in baseball history.
3. **Paul Waner** (1903-1965, Harrah). Paul "Big Poison" Waner of the Pirates still holds a major-league record of fourteen straight games with an extra-base hit, a feat he accomplished in 1927.
4. **Lloyd Waner** (1906-1982, Harrah). Known as "Little Poison" to distinguish him from brother Paul, Lloyd Waner was a versatile player with a career .316 batting average.
5. **Warren Spahn** (1921-2003, Hartshorne). With 363 wins, Spahn remains the winningest left-handed pitcher in baseball. This New York native lived on a ranch in Hartshorne during the off-season and after his retirement.
6. **Allie Reynolds** (1917-1994, Bethany). This right-handed pitcher and member of the Creek Nation had a career 182 wins.
7. **Joe Carter** (1960, Oklahoma City). Carter's hit to left field in game six won the World Series for the Toronto Blue Jays in 1993 and was only the second walk-off home run in the history of the series.
8. **Bobby Murcer** (1946, Oklahoma City). Much-hyped as the next Mickey Mantle, Murcer compiled a .277 career batting average.
9. **Dale Mitchell** (1921-1987, Colony). A college star at OU, Mitchell played with the Oklahoma City Indians and then in the majors, mostly with the Cleveland Indians.
10. **Darrell Porter** (1952-2002, Oklahoma City). Porter, a fine defensive catcher, had a gift for banging out key hits in big games.

Family First

Hosted by Governor Brad Henry and First Lady Kim Henry, Septemberfest celebrates the state with an event-filled day on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion. Since its origins in 1997, the event has grown, and attendance in 2003 exceeded 30,000.

"With high gas prices and families staying closer to home, this event is the perfect way to celebrate Labor Day weekend without spending a penny," says Kim Henry.

Activities include games, crafts, a petting zoo, an obstacle course, and a hay bale maze. Yesteryear aficionados will appreciate the informative displays from the Oklahoma Museum of History, while the less energetic can enjoy live entertainment. Twenty-minute tours of the mansion will also be available.

CARRIE FUDICKAR

—Andrea Lopez

Septemberfest begins at 10 a.m. September 4 on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion, 820 Northeast Twenty-third Street in Oklahoma City. (405) 557-0198 or (405) 522-8868.

Say "Cheese"

State pride is beautiful. The America 24/7 project documented American life for a week in May 2003, yielding the best-selling *America 24/7* and individual volumes devoted to each state. *Oklahoma 24/7* ($24.95, DK Publishing) will be published in September. From tornado chases in western Oklahoma to barbershops in Duncan, *Oklahoma 24/7* features images from thirty-five lensmen, including *Oklahoma Today* photographers R.E. Lindsey, Fred W. Marvel, and Stephen Holman.america24-7.com.

—Brooke Adcox

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—Wilma Mankiller, on the Cherokee, or *Tsalagi* people

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In 1997, *Harper's Magazine* contributing editor Earl Shorris began offering a humanities class, the Clemente Project, in New York City to people who might otherwise never have the chance to study their culture. The fifteen-week Cherokee Humanities Course, sponsored by Tahlequah's Cherokee Heritage Center, reflects its philosophies.

"The course helps us gain a deeper understanding of how our people think and what they believe," says Tonia Hogner-Weavel, director of education at the Cherokee Heritage Center.

Visiting lecturers complement lead instructor Steven Woods, professor of humanities and Native American studies at Tulsa Community College. Past courses have included guest speakers like Reverend Dan McCurry from Chicago, an authority on tribal gospel singing. Each semester takes a turn examining one aspect of Cherokee culture.

Ryan Mackey has taken the course three times and seen participants gain new pride in their heritage. "The humanities course is a tool. We use it to evaluate ourselves and see our lives in a new way," he says.

Cherokee perceptions of past, present, and future live on through the Cherokee Humanities Course. In a shrinking universe, the *Tsalagi* continue to carve out a unique space for themselves. *Wa-do.*

—Ami Reeves

The fall 2004 course runs September 13 through December 20 on Monday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. Cherokees eighteen or older may enroll; books, tuition, and childcare are free. The University of Science and Arts in Chickasha awards three hours of credit. (918) 456-6007 or (888) 999-6007; cherokeeheritage.org.

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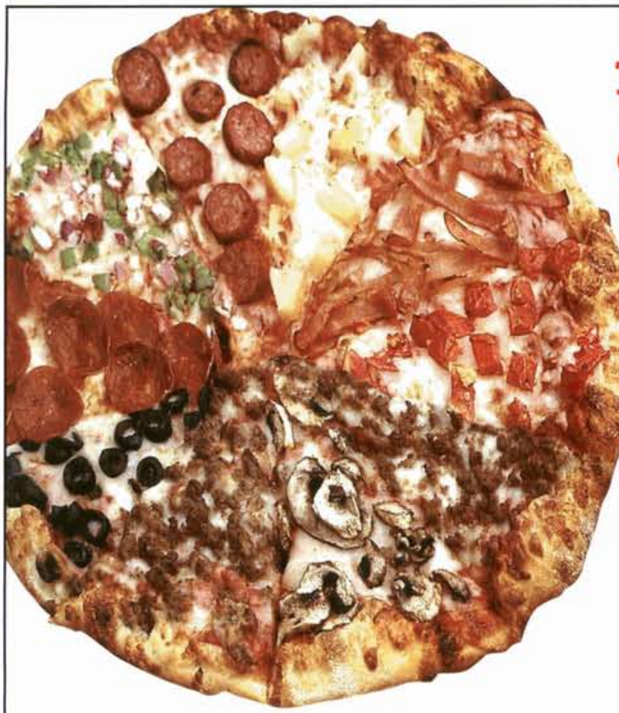

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Pedals to the Metal

HELEN BARRETT

CALLING ALL CARS TO ALVA

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS AND the music stops, the good memories of Oklahoma's largest free Big Cruise and Car Show will linger.

The Alva Race and Cruising Enthusiasts (R.A.C.E.) Club and Alva Area Chamber of Commerce sponsor the annual event on Alva's downtown square September 18 to 19.

Last year, the show drew more than 175 cars from Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, California, and Illinois. "We expect more than 250 cars this year," says show organizer and R.A.C.E. member Norville Ritter of the vintage antiques, souped-up hot rods, and refurbished classics lining the streets of the square for admiring viewers.

Bleachers on the square provide trackside seating for exciting events like the popular Burn-out Contest. Expect the unexpected during the Whoa and Go Contest, a complicated routine involving passenger-driver swaps, balloons, and races against the clock. After the sun sets, it's time for the Flame-out Contest, where drivers compete to create the largest fireball. Sunday's events begin with a continental breakfast and worship service sponsored by Racers for Christ.

Later, car owners crank up the decibels for the stereo contest. Other activities include a wheelchair obstacle course, tricycle race, cook-off, and the naming of a Miss Big Cruise and Car Show 2004. Special guest this year will be racecar owner and drag-racing artist Kenny Youngblood, painter of Alva's newest mural, *The Alva Speedway*, featuring a racetrack scene from the early 1950s.

Make the last weekend of the summer a memorable one with a cruise to Alva.

—Helen Barrett

Alva's Big Cruise and Car Show will be held downtown on September 18 and 19. For more information, call Norville Ritter at (580) 327-3786 or the Alva Area Chamber of Commerce at (580) 327-1647.

"It's really a good thing that he made it in the music business, 'cause he would have starved to death as a farmer."
—Sheb Wooley on Roger Miller

KING OF THE ROAD

A Festival and Museum for Hometown Hero Roger Miller

WHEN LISTENERS HEAR A ROGER MILLER TUNE, A COMfortable smile pulls at the corners of their lips. In the mid-1960s, his songs "Dang Me," "King of the Road," "Walkin' in the Sunshine," and "England Swings" launched a long career.

The multi-Grammy winner and Country Music Hall of Famer who died in 1992 has a staggering body of work—more than seven hundred songs, movie voice-overs, and a Tony-winning Broadway score for *Big River*. It's fitting that the new Roger Miller Museum, site of the second annual Roger Miller Festival, is situated on the king of all roads: Route 66 in Miller's childhood hometown of Erick.

The circa-1929, 3,000-square-foot building offers a look into Miller's life through a mix of the star's instruments, photographs, gold records, costumes, handwritten lyrics, and personal items. A display is devoted to another Erick native, the late Sheb Wooley—of "Purple People Eaters" fame—who encouraged Miller's musical aspirations.

In conjunction with the museum's grand opening October 23, the Second Annual Roger Miller Festival offers fans indoor and outdoor festivities for the whole family.

"The festival will be a great opportunity for family fun and to hear Roger's music," says board chair Glenda West. An evening concert in the nearby school auditorium will feature Roger's son Dean Miller and his former bass player Marc Durham.

"Impressive to me is that Roger's fans and friends built a museum for him," says his widow, Mary Miller. "We received memorabilia and donations from around the world. Roger would be proud of the museum and festival." —Cindy Kelly

The Roger Miller Festival takes place in downtown Erick from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. October 23, with the grand opening of the Roger Miller Museum at 11 a.m. 101 South Sheb Wooley. (580) 526-3332; rogermillermuseum.com.

PAT BROWNING

Former Roger Miller band mate Marc Durham plays at the 2003 festival. Top of page, last year's festival sign. Far left, Roger Miller.

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(American, 1847–1898)
Homage to a Parrot
Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 inches.
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Visit the Southern Plains Indian Museum

See authentic Indian arts and crafts, located in Anadarko, Oklahoma at 715 East Central Boulevard. The museum is open year-round and hosts a variety of exhibits from traditional clothing and artifacts, to contemporary paintings and sculptures. Southern Plains Indian Museum, P.O. Box 749, Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005, T: 405.247.6221

Under the Impression

OKLAHOMA CITY MUSEUM OF ART SAYS *OUI* TO FRENCH EXHIBIT

NOW PLAYING IN WHAT ITS OFFICIALS call the "major league" of the art world, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art aims to give regional museums in Dallas, Kansas City, and elsewhere a run for their money.

Why all the fuss? The first of several blockbuster exhibits, Millet to Matisse: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century French Painting, will appear at the museum beginning September 9.

The exhibit showcases sixty-four works

from the Kelvingrove Art Gallery collection in Glasgow, Scotland, by impressionistic and postimpressionistic masters like Pablo Picasso, Jean Francois Millet, Henri Matisse, Vincent van Gogh, Mary Cassatt, Édouard Vuillard, and Pierre August Renoir.

"This is the kind of exhibit that we will be focusing on in the future that we could not have done without this new building," says executive director Carolyn Hill, adding that the museum's staff is negotiating for another three "internationally significant" exhibits to appear during the next three years.

Millet to Matisse spans 1830 to 1930 and is organized in groupings of portraits, still lifes, interiors, street and village scenes, reflections, and the changing styles of French landscape. Audio guides and a catalog of the exhibit will be available, and museum docents will lead personal tours by appointment.

"A knowledge of impressionism isn't necessary to appreciate this exhibit," says chief curator Dr. Hardy George. "It is very pictorial, very visual, very sensual." —**Shelly Hickman**

The Millet to Matisse exhibit will be on display at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art September 9 through December 5. Exhibit-related events include a dinner and "What Van Gogh Ate and What Toulouse-Lautrec Drank" lecture October 4. 415 Couch Drive. (405) 236-3100; okcmoa.org.

Clockwise from left: Details from *Woman in Oriental Dress* by Henri Matisse; *Portrait of Alexander Reid* by Vincent van Gogh; and *Going to Work* by Jean Francois Millet.

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THE OKT PROFILE

Rashaun Woods

While playing wide receiver for the OSU Cowboys, Oklahoma City native Rashaun Woods broke Big 12 records for career yardage, receptions, and touchdown passes. In the 2004 NFL draft, Woods was a first-round pick for the San Francisco 49ers. He kicks off his pro career on September 12 in a home game against the Atlanta Falcons.

Q: Now that you're in California, how do you feel about your home state?

A: It's a great place to grow up, the kind of state where you can raise your children without the threat big cities bring.

Q: What was your favorite OSU game?

A: OSU versus OU in November 2001. The final score was 16-13. It's my favorite because we weren't supposed to win.

Q: What is your favorite quote?

A: "You can't score if you don't shoot."

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: The *Matrix* series.

Q: What do you like to read?

A: I really enjoy reading *Bassmaster* magazine. Fishing is my favorite sport, and the magazine sure gives me some good fishing tips.

Q: Why do you enjoy fishing so much?

A: There is nothing as relaxing as being on a lake and as satisfying as catching the big one.

Q: How do you feel about your upcoming professional career?

A: Right now, it's just like leaving high school, going to college, and playing in the Big 12 for the very first time. Words can't describe those feelings.

Q: What do you think you'll miss most about Oklahoma?

A: The land, open spaces, and the closeness of the fishing ponds and lakes.

Q: How do you feel about OSU?

A: The university offered me a football scholarship, educated me, and prepared me to take the next step. Football is what I do, not who I am. OSU has prepared me to succeed in life.

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"Every crime in Oklahoma was added to his name."
—from Woody Guthrie's "Ballad of Pretty Boy Floyd"

OETA
THE OKLAHOMA NETWORK

THE WAY OF THE GUN

PBS Show Explores Pretty Boy Floyd Mystery

IN CHARLES FLOYD'S DAY, STEALING was a ticket to fame and a permanent place in history. Like most other Depression-era desperadoes, Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd is still part of the cultural lexicon, turning up in song titles (Woody Guthrie's "Pretty Boy Floyd"), books, (*Pretty Boy* by Michael Wallis), and band names (1980s rock band Pretty Boy Floyd).

Floyd will turn up again this month on an episode of the PBS series *History Detectives*. "Pretty Boy Floyd Handgun" will feature an investigation into the authenticity of a Colt automatic handgun said to have once belonged to Floyd.

Michael Wallis says he was once doubtful of Floyd's folk hero status. "I'd heard him called a 'sagebrush Robin Hood,' stealing from the banks and giving to the poor of Oklahoma. Then I found out, by God, some of these stories were true. People saw him as a hero."

Floyd grew up poor in eastern Oklahoma's Cookson Hills, selling moonshine and once robbing the local post office to earn fast cash. *History Detectives* host Wes Cowan says he found Floyd's hard-luck story fascinating—to a degree.

"No matter what kind of shine you put on these guys—you can call them Robin Hoods or folk heroes—they were all still criminals," Cowan says.

Woody Guthrie sang a slightly different tune about crime in "Pretty Boy Floyd": "Yes, as through this world I've wandered, I've seen lots of funny men. Some will rob you with a six-gun and some with a fountain pen."—**Kimberly Mauck**

"Pretty Boy Floyd Handgun" will air on OETA Monday, September 13, at 8 p.m. oeta.onenet.net.

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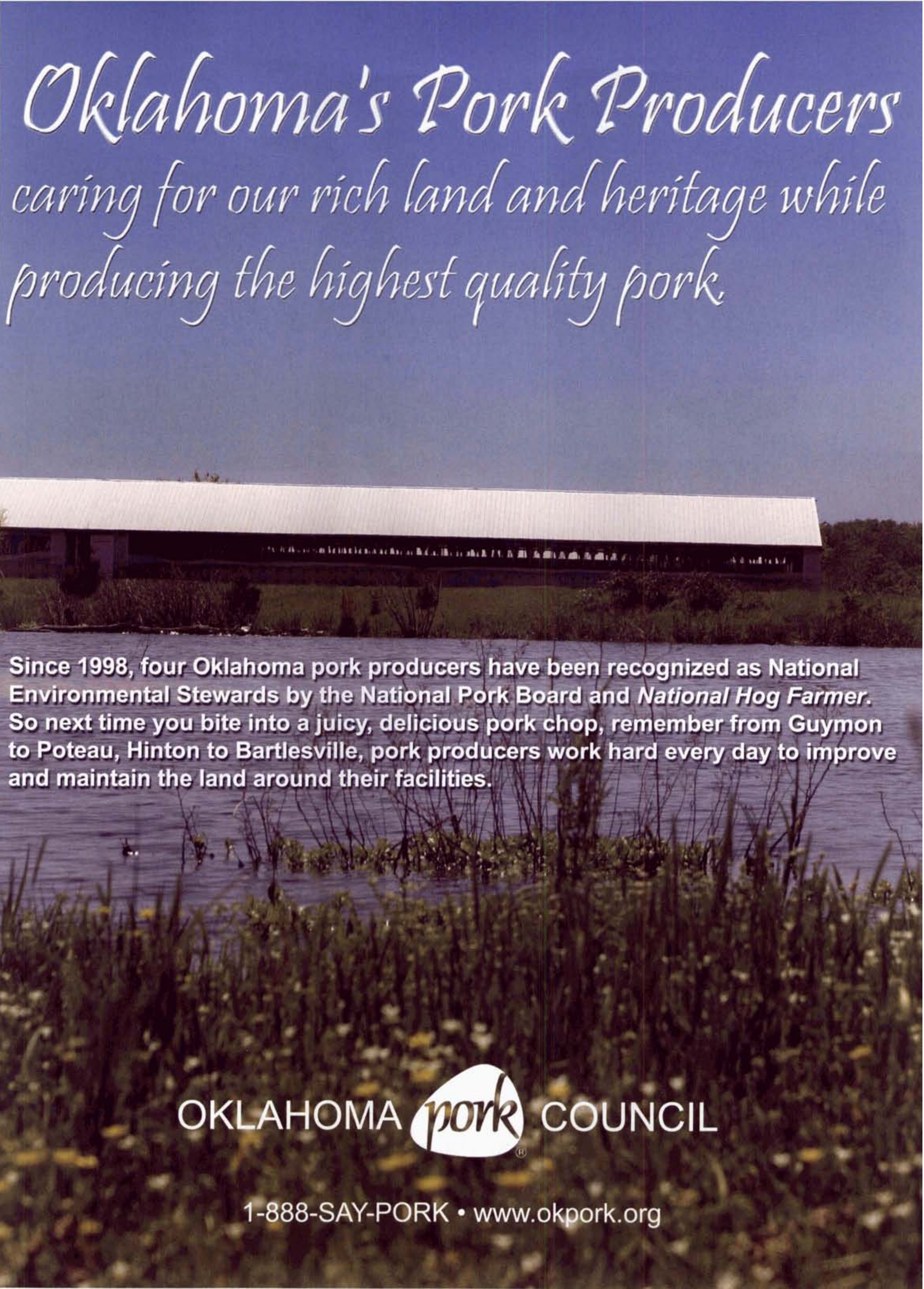

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FALL FUN IN ENID

NEED TO ADD A LITTLE JAZZ TO your step? Feelin' the blues? Whatever your musical taste, it's sure to be fulfilled at the third annual A Fling at the Springs Music Fest at Government Springs Park in Enid this September.

At least twenty different acts will perform the first day, with a new act taking the stage every thirty minutes. Glass Mountain, Cici Wallace and Curt Daugherty, and the Imposters are just a few scheduled to perform. New to the festival this year is a second day, with gospel music by artists like Dab 'o Glory Gospel Quartet and the Gospel Grandpas.

If the free admission and tunes aren't enticing enough, the Fling also will host an art show and offer delicious festival fare—barbecue, funnel cakes, hot dogs, and beer—for hungry concert-goers.

Enid Beautiful and Friends of Government Springs Park sponsor the festival, the proceeds from which are used to preserve and improve the park's landscaping and facilities. Three years ago, after the Government Springs waterfall deteriorated, the board of directors started fundraising to help restore it. The first festival in 2002 was such a success that the money needed to repair the waterfall has almost been raised.

Not to worry. Due to the festival's popularity, it will continue even after the waterfall's restoration.

—Ryan Marie Mendenhall

A Fling at the Springs Music Fest is September 25 and 26 at Government Springs Park in Enid. The festival begins at 11 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. (580) 233-1764.

The amphitheater swings with tunes at Government Springs Park in Enid.

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Photographs courtesy of Fred Marvel and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Scout Salute

PAWHUSKA EXHIBIT HONORS AMERICA'S FIRST BOY SCOUTS

THE DATE: MAY 1909. DIRECTED by scoutmaster and Reverend John F. Mitchell, nineteen Boy Scouts wearing British uniforms raised a United States flag and established the first troop in the United States. The place? Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

Today, Pawhuska's Osage County Historical Museum features a Boy Scout exhibit honoring scoutmaster Mitchell and the original troop. Inside the circa-1922 Santa Fe Railroad Depot, the Boy Scout exhibit includes dated handbooks and letters, merit badges, a uniform from the 1930s, documents, and Mitchell's correspondence verifying the creation of America's first troop in Pawhuska.

Mitchell served in the British army with the father of scouting, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, during the Boer War in South Africa. In 1909, Mitchell was assigned to Pawhuska's Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, at that time a mission.

"The first thing he did was organize this little group of Boy Scouts under the British charter, and we had the first uniformed Boy Scout troop in America," says museum director Betty Smith.

Good deeds by scouts nationwide mark the ninety-fourth year of the Boy Scouts of America, formally organized in Chicago on February 8, 1910. Honoring America's first Boy Scout troop under the British charter and celebrating the United States bicentennial in 1976, Pawhuska sculptor Bill Sowell crafted a life-sized bronze statue of Mitchell for the Osage County Historical Museum.

On the steps of Pawhuska's Santa Fe Railroad Depot, the bronze statue stands at attention, proudly saluting museum visitors and the success of the scouting program he brought from England to Oklahoma more than one hundred years ago.

—**Evan Jensen**

The Boy Scout exhibit is on display at the Osage County Historical Museum, 700 North Lynn Avenue in Pawhuska. (918) 287-9924. For a list of scouting events this fall, contact the Last Frontier Council at (405) 840-1114; lastfrontiercouncil.org.

MELINDA JENSEN

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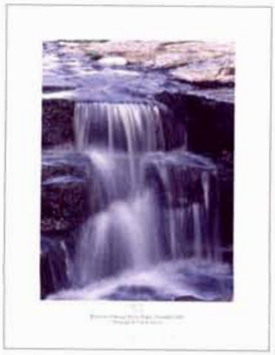

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In 1976, Matador Processors was born with a frozen foods plant in Blanchard and three employees. Soon, the little company was packing their peppers—beef- or cheese-filled and grown in New Mexico—into the frozen section of grocery stores.

"You can't imagine the sight of a million pounds of fresh peppers arriving from New Mexico each August," says Betty.

Today, Matador has a state-of-the-art production plant with thirty-five employees and ships throughout the country and overseas via hundreds of distributors. Their chile relleno—which now includes a chicken variety—is served in thousands of restaurants around the country. Matador's hors d'oeuvres and desserts are also staples with national distributors.

Sole owner since Clif's death in 1983, Betty says she still enjoys running the company.

"I'll never be big business, but I don't plan on retiring soon," says the seventy-four-year-old. "I've had offers to cut quality and expand, but business isn't business without a great product."

—Cindy Kelly

Hub and Lil's Restaurant (405/485-3815) in Blanchard, Matador's first customer, still has the chile relleno on the menu twenty-nine years later. Call Matador Processors at (800) 847-0797 to schedule a group tour. matadorprocessors.com.

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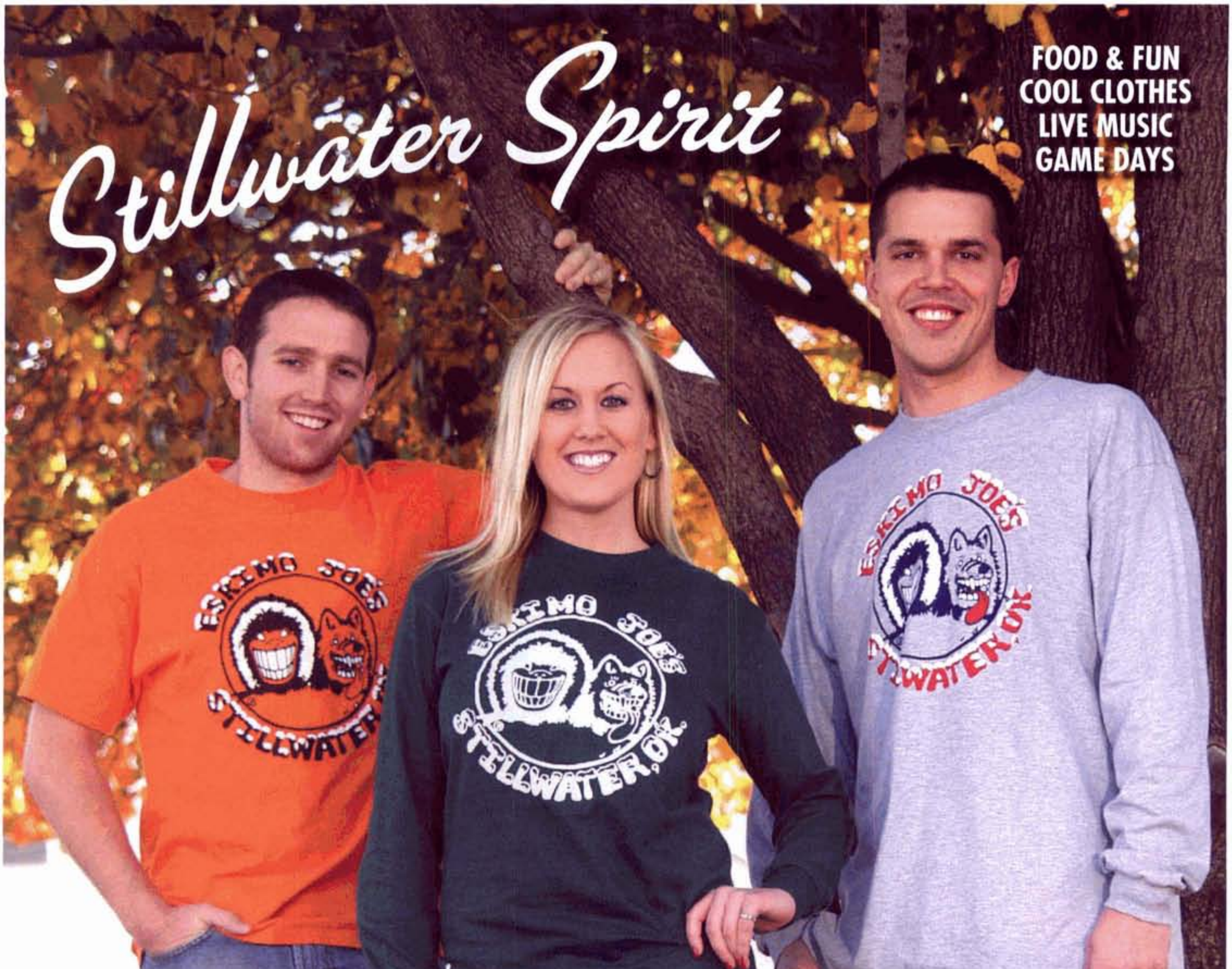

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THE PA

Jenks High School supporter Lane Farrier grills hamburgers prior to the Jenks/Union 6A playoffs at the University of Tulsa's Skelly Stadium.

RKING LOT

Food, friends, and fun converge for Oklahoma's favorite movable feast, TAILGATING.

By Chad Love

Photography by Stephen Holman

THE PATTERN IS ALWAYS THE SAME: AS DAWN'S FIRST RAYS CREEP ACROSS THE sky, painted traffic lines begin to glow a faint yellow against the black, bituminous surface of the parking lot. It's empty now, but soon, very soon, they will appear, first one, then two or three, a trickle followed by a torrent. Long before the sun's arc reaches its noonday zenith, this featureless man-made plain will be transformed into a village, a temporary community of like-minded residents bound by a common bond, tasked with a common mission that must be completed before the village inevitably dies, mayfly-like, at day's end. It is game day in Oklahoma, and these people must have as much fun as humanly possible.

In the pantheon of uniquely American traditions, there are few things as sacrosanct as our grills, our ballparks, and our rides. Apart, they are temples of individual accomplishment, paeans to the creative and competitive spirit of their owners and participants. Throw them together, however, and you get an outlandishly synergistic experience so ingrained in our collective psyche, the utterance of a single word—tailgating—is all that's required to bring the whole wild scene into focus.

What compels otherwise sane men and women to abandon perfectly good kitchens, heavily modify perfectly functional vehicles for purposes never envisioned by automotive engineers, and spend copious amounts of time and money preparing for an event that takes place in about as aesthetically unappealing a place as you are likely to find?

Because it's fun, that's why.

If, as the saying goes, nature abhors a vacuum and must therefore fill it, a fitting corollary might be that Oklahomans abhor an empty stadium parking lot and therefore must fill it not only with cars and trucks but a carnival of the senses that rivals and often exceeds whatever may transpire on the field.

You might ask just who these people are, and according to tailgating.com, which bills itself as the official site of American tailgating, 64 percent of tailgaters are between the ages of 25 and 44, 80 percent are male, and almost half tailgate six to ten times a season. More than 40 percent spend more than $500 a season on food and supplies, more than half set up three to four hours before the game, and almost 80 percent use a grill to cook their food.

But at its base level, tailgating can't be defined by a demographic breakdown any more than communal sporting events are defined by the thrill of competition, or winning or losing, or great, epic battles. Really, when parsed to its elemental form, game day—whatever the game might be—is all about a bunch of friendly people getting together and having fun.

Friendly and fun. Those are the two most important elements to a successful tailgating culture. Americans are by nature a gregarious, friendly lot, but on the hierarchy of American friendliness, Oklahomans occupy a rung somewhere near the very top. As for fun, if there is ever a definitive book penned on the subject, it will no doubt originate within our borders.

But hard-core tailgating requires a certain, even slavish degree of devotion, and as a matter of semantics, it is perhaps debatable whether Oklahoma tailgating qualifies as mere pastime or rabid subculture, especially compared to the legendary exploits of professional team acolytes or the football-crazed fans of the Southeastern Conference. Debatable, at least, until you spend a crisp fall Saturday afternoon in Norman, Stillwater, Tulsa, or virtually anywhere there's a significant sporting event. At the bigger venues, you'll likely think you've stumbled onto a Jimmy Buffett concert. Tailgating is an assault on the senses, a cacophony of sights, scents, sounds, and tastes that will leave you punch-drunk but wanting more.

One walk along the smoky, sizzling rows of impromptu kitchens manned by face-painted, apron-clad cooks draped in team colors and spatters of barbecue sauce, one stroll among the milling crowds of gastric warriors noshing on any of a hundred different one-of-a-kind, hand-rubbed, slow-cooked concoctions, a few wondrous, gape-mouthed stares at the sheer variety and technological ingenuity of the tailgating setups, one sidelong glance at the sheer, benign lunacy of this fun-loving collective of humanity is all it takes to quell any doubt: Oklahoma tailgating is a boisterous, bona fide subculture.

Successful tailgating is performance art for the masses, with the added bonus of being fed

Clockwise from top left: OU fan Mark Miller of Bethany takes a big bite of his pregame meal; OSU alum Joe Robinson of Tulsa enjoys smoked ribs prior to the bedlam football game in Norman on November 1, 2003; Smoke rises from the grill as Brad Miller barbecues for family and friends prior to the October 25, 2003, TU/SMU game in Tulsa; Crowds gather at the OU/OSU game.

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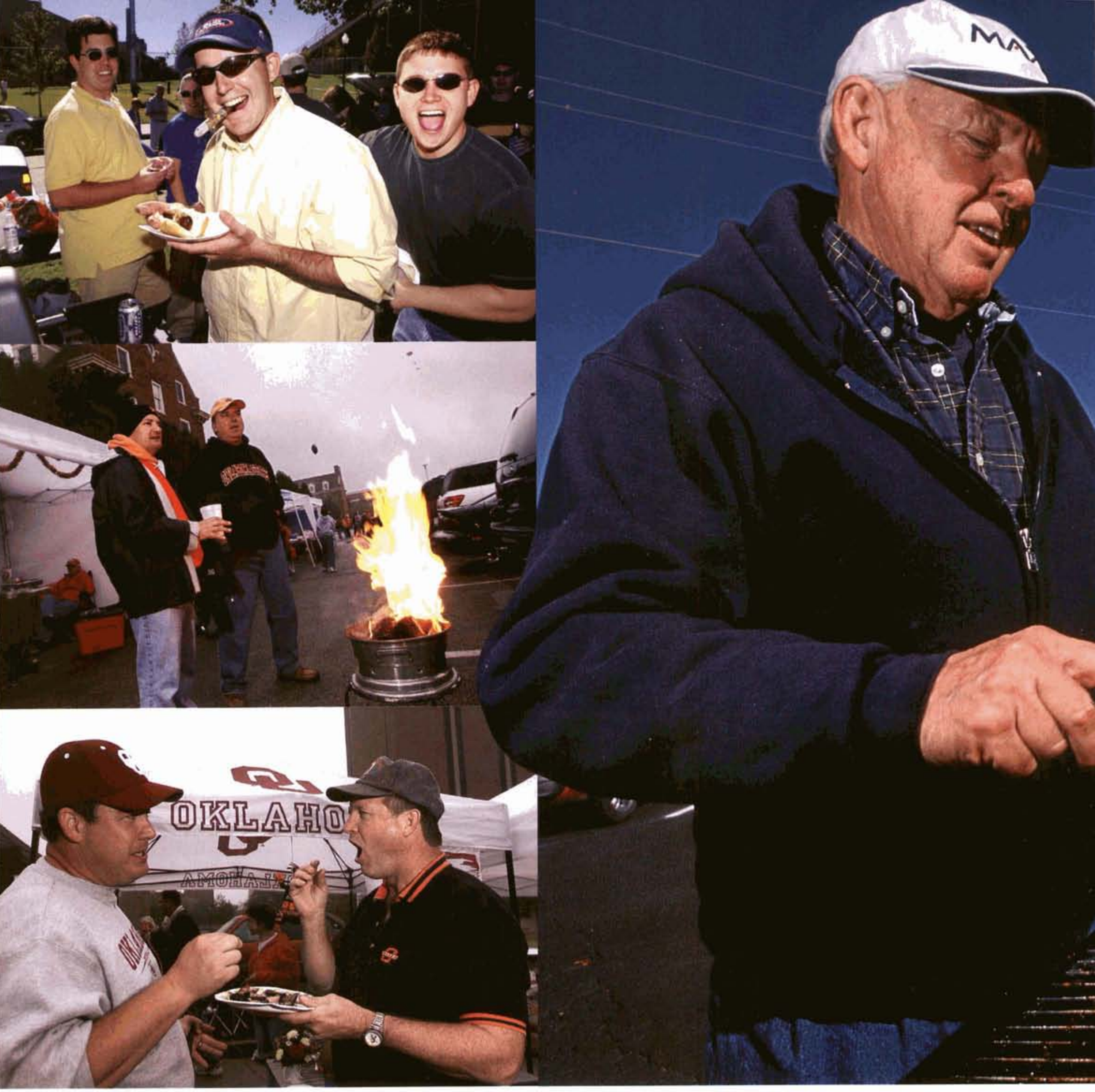


Clockwise from top left: TU fan Chris Cone tailgates with friends prior to the Tulsa/Nevada football game October 18, 2003; James Ward of Jenks serves his niece, Kay Sullivan, prior to the Jenks/Union face-off; OU fan Rick Nicholas, left, and OSU alum Tony Mumma, right, have a bedlam chat before the 2003 OU/OSU football game; OSU supporter Glenn Floresca, left, and Jim Wigley, right, warm up in front of their barbecue pit prior to the OSU/Texas football game in Stillwater on November 8, 2003.

for an encore. Tailgating is our homegrown, uniquely Oklahoman affirmation of the French philosophy, what is food without atmosphere? Tailgaters don't just cook, they create food as the framework for a cultural scene, and they do it with a style and panache worthy of any Michelin star-rated restaurant.

Tailgaters also love innovation, and it is a rare tailgater who doesn't have a plethora of gadgets. No one can discuss the intricacies of an electrical power inverter system and just how many electrical devices you can safely run off one cigarette lighter plug like a tailgater.

For all its whiz-bang novelty, however, American tailgating has been around, in one form or another, since the nineteenth century. The exact origins are still hotly debated. Some say the first real tailgating party occurred in 1869 from the tail end of horse-drawn carriages at the first college football game between Rutgers and Princeton, while others claim it occurred in 1904 when a group of wealthy Yale fans rolled into town on a private train and rolled out a picnic hamper at a Yale football game.

Whatever the true story, at the beginning of the twentieth century, tailgating was poised to take off with the somewhat synchronous invention of two seemingly disparate products.

In 1920, an enterprising Michigan industrialist looked around at the huge piles of sawdust collecting at his factories and decided something needed to be done about them. If a profit could somehow be made along the way, all the better. He teamed up with Thomas Edison (yes, that Thomas Edison) and discovered that the resulting product would not only burn, it would produce a slow and even-burning heat just right for cooking in an outdoor grill.

The product was, of course, the charcoal briquette, and the enterprising industrialist was none other than Henry Ford, who, by simply looking for a way to utilize the copious amounts of sawdust being produced in the manufacture of his wood-paneled vehicles, unwittingly created an ingenious and elegant cross-marketing effort. The rest, of course, is history.

Both cooking methods and vehicles have evolved over the years, but the primacy of the grill continues, and at a typical Oklahoma tailgate convention, you can find a dizzying array of cooking conveyances, from the simple, functional tabletop charcoal grill to elaborate sculpted metal works of art.

Navigating through a smoke-filled parking lot, the uninitiated might postulate that never in the annals of culinary history have so many expended so much for so little. That is, of course, until they take a bite of a perfectly grilled bratwurst specially branded with the team logo, sink into the cushiony depths of a folding lawn chair emblazoned with the team colors, grab an icy drink from the official team cooler, plug the television into the twelve-volt receptacle, and pretend to watch the other, far less interesting pregame show while taking in, and taking part in, one of Oklahoma's most unique cultural scenes.

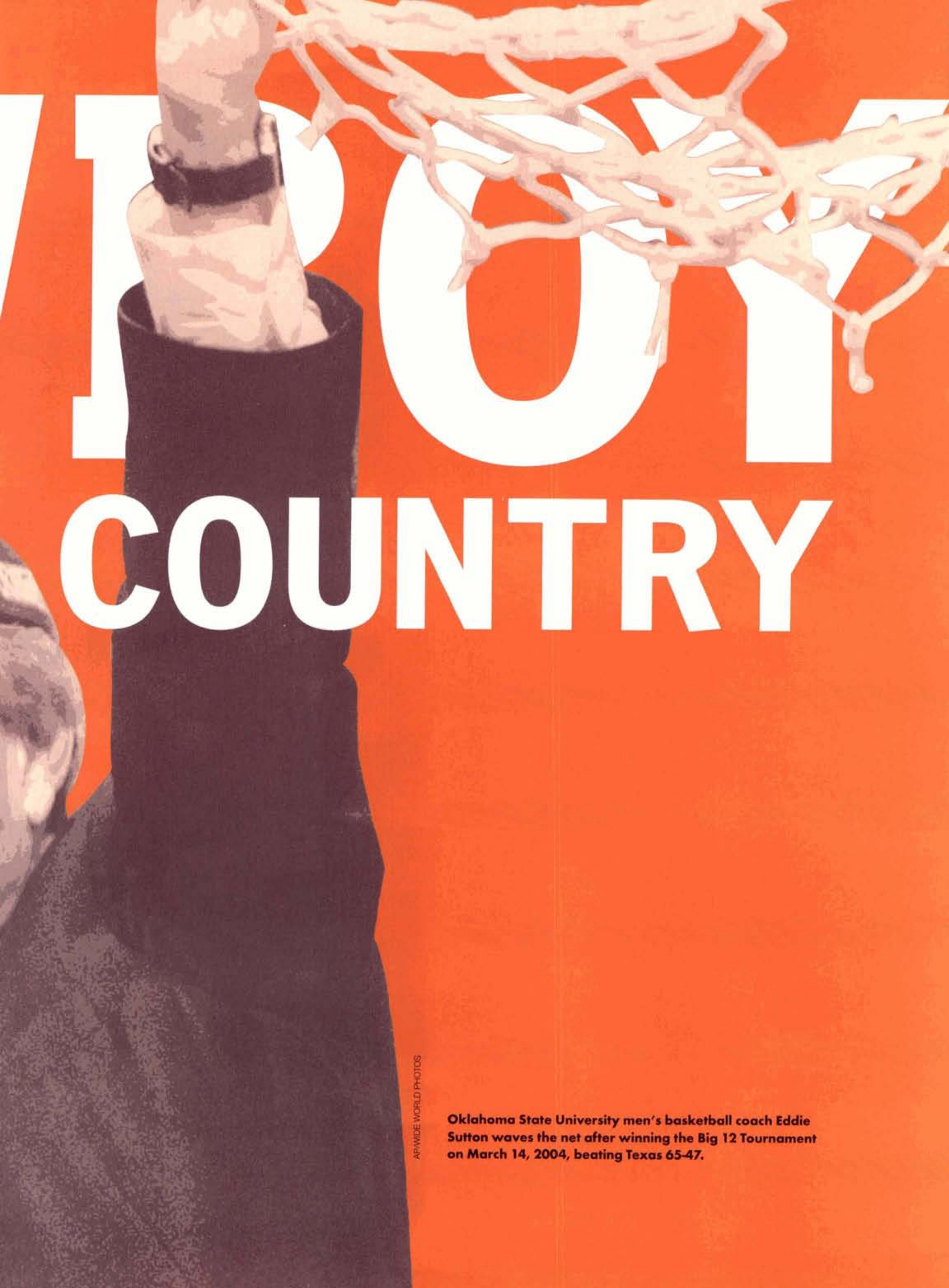
COW

IN STILLWATER, THE LEGACY OF ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE RUNS DEEP.

THERE IS A CLEAR DISCONNECT, CALL IT A PROFESSIONAL distance, between the cool, almost affected neutrality of press row, where a dozen or so expressionless reporters idly fidget with their pens, and the boisterous mass of orange-and-black-clad humanity packed to the rafters inside Gallagher-Iba Arena. The players are running through their warm-up drills, and Pistol Pete is roaming the perimeter of the floor, stoking up as much pregame passion as he can—as if it were possible to stoke up any more.

SCOTT WIGTON REPORTS

COUNTRY



APWIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Oklahoma State University men's basketball coach Eddie Sutton waves the net after winning the Big 12 Tournament on March 14, 2004, beating Texas 65-47.

The scene brings to mind the words of Oklahoma State University athletic director Harry Birdwell, who, since 2002, has presided over one of the nation's most accomplished athletic traditions. To Birdwell, to be an Oklahoma State Cowboy or Cowgirl is to be a member of an indissoluble family where everyone—player, coach, and fan alike—does his part to contribute to success.

"There's nothing like seeing three, four, and even five generations attending a game together," he says. "The shared experience of athletics is the mortar that holds the university together. We have a lot of people who are committed and loyal, people with what I call 'Orange Blood Syndrome.'"

That syndrome appears to have infected the entire arena full of OSU fans, who rhythmically chant, "Eddie! Eddie! Eddie!" and follow with a burst of applause as a slightly stooped man shuffles out onto the hardwood. He acknowledges the acclaim with a quick nod and wave of a half-cocked arm and then lowers himself into a courtside chair, casually crossing his legs as though seated in his own living room.

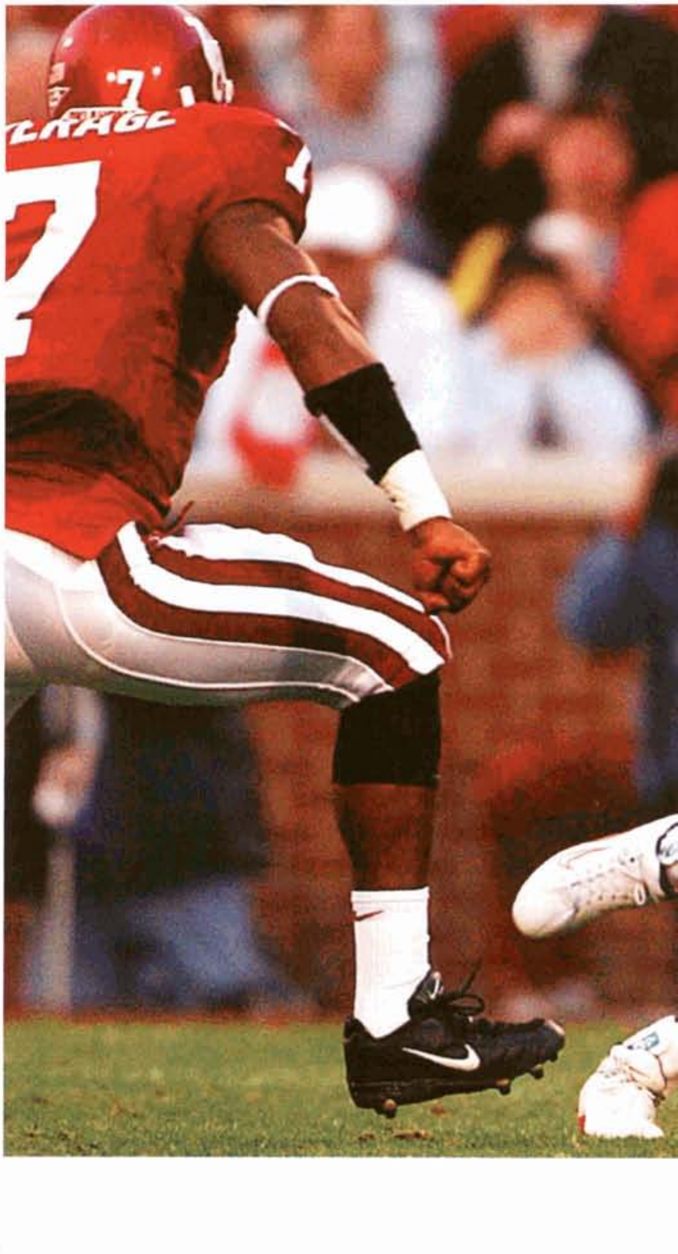
THE COWBOYS On July 1, 1957, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College officially became Oklahoma State University.

In many ways, that's almost what Gallagher-Iba has become. In the fourteen years since returning to his alma mater as head basketball coach, Sutton has supervised a return to glory for Cowboy basketball that recalls the days of Henry P. Iba. There have been twelve NCAA championship tournament appearances including two trips to the Final Four. Prior to Sutton's return, the Cowboys had gone through a twenty-five-year slump, with only seven winning seasons and a single NCAA tournament appearance.

Now it's March 6, 2004, and there's a basketball game to be played, a Big 12 championship to be clinched, a trophy to be hoisted. But there's also something present that palpably connects this moment and these fans, players, and coaches to much more than just a game—it connects them in an unbroken circle of more than a century of storied athletic tradition.

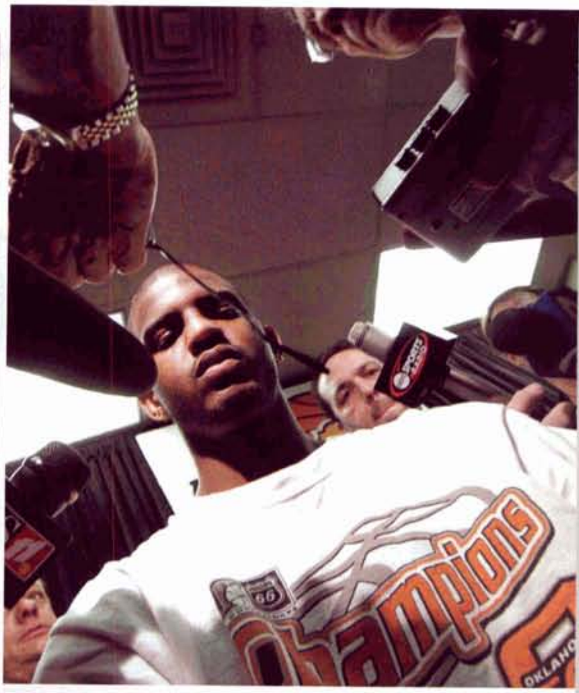
SINCE ITS FIRST DAY OF CLASSES IN 1891, JUST TWENTY months after the famed Land Run, OSU, or Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College as it was known for decades, has collected forty-six national titles, more than any other college or university in the United States, save three California universities: UCLA, Stanford, and USC. Not bad for a humble, prairie-bound

Wrestling Team, 1917.



Clockwise from top left: The 1917 wrestling team with coach Ed Gallagher, far left; Golf coaches Labron Harris Sr. and Mike Holder show off decades of OSU golf success; John Lucas talks to the press at the Alamodome in April 2004; Men's basketball coach Sam Aubrey during the 1971-72 season; Rashaun Woods sidesteps OU's Brandon Everage in the 2003 bedlam game. Top of page, Thurman Thomas.

THOMAS, GOLF, AUBREY, OSU ATHLETICS; WRESTLERS, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, OSU LIBRARY; LUCAS, BRYAN TERRY/THE OKLAHOMAN; WOODS, KELLY KERR/TULSA WORLD


Champions
OKLAHO

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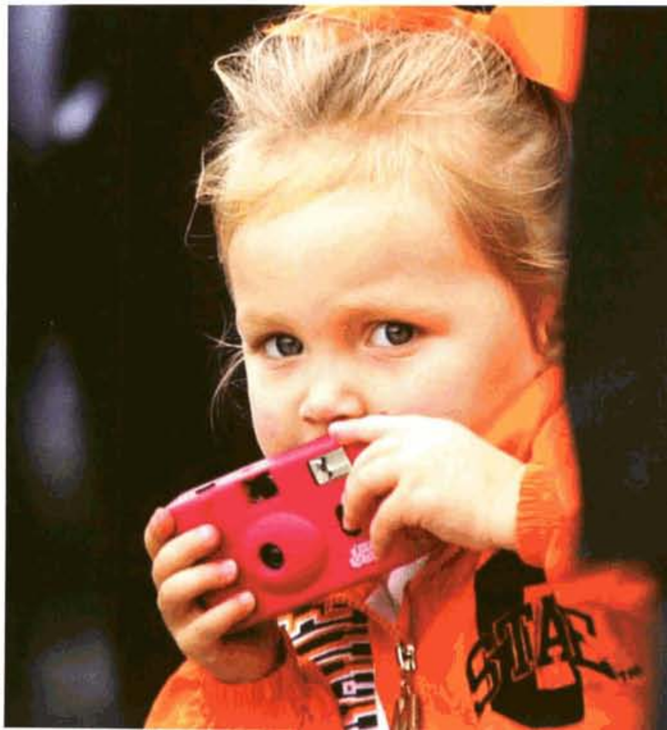
A&M populated with local farm boys and girls whose major preoccupation was learning how to extract higher crop yields from the surrounding terrain and who had few pretensions of athletic glory.

Nevertheless, over the course of decades, the school would become known for having one of the top athletic programs in the country, producing an astonishing number of first-tier coaches, teams, and individual athletes in a broad spectrum of sports from basketball, football, and baseball to golf, track and field, wrestling, and even equestrian.

Certainly within the borders of Oklahoma and in many cases well beyond, the names Iba, Kurland, Sanders, Thomas, Monday, Sutton, Smith, Ventura, Incaviglia, Tway, Gallagher, and others carry special distinction. Some are invoked with the word "legendary" preceding them. Along the way, OSU student-athletes have earned 140 national titles, hundreds of All-American honors, hundreds of conference titles, and a Heisman trophy winner.

The Cowboy wrestling program alone has produced 125 indi-



THE COWBOYS Founded in 1891, OAMC, giving a nod to Princeton, quickly adopted orange and black as its school colors and the tiger as its mascot.

vidual national champions and 32 NCAA team championships, including 2004, making it the most team titles ever earned by a school in a single sport. OSU has placed sixty-one student-athletes or alumni in the Olympics, with someone competing, coaching, or managing in every Olympics since 1924, except for the boycotted 1980 Moscow games. In the rarefied and ultracompetitive air of the Olympics, Cowboys and Cowgirls have been decorated with twenty-one gold medals, two silver, and one bronze.

This summer, the university sent a contingent of current and former student-athletes to the birthplace of the modern games in Athens, among them wrestlers Eric Guerrero, Jamill Kelly, and Daniel Cormier; two softball players competing on foreign teams, Lauren Bay for Canada and Melanie Roche for Australia; and track and field star Mindi Pukstas, competing for Lithuania.

Impressive as these results are, there was precious little to indicate more than one hundred years ago that one of the nation's most dependable, versatile, and enduring college sports dynasties would rise out of the windswept prairies of Oklahoma Territory. That a college athletic power might emerge from the dense population centers along the East and West coasts was not difficult to conceive—but an upstart from a land known to the rest of the country for Indians and outlaws?

GRAINY BLACK AND WHITE PICTURES REVEAL MUCH about those primitive early days of sport on the campus of the young Oklahoma A&M: boys in quaint track outfits lined up on a dirt road next to an alfalfa field; an athlete hurling steel shot into an unmarked field; early pole vaulter Morton House, attired in trousers and street shoes, improbably launching himself over a bar set at eight feet three inches in front of a throng of umbrella-toting onlookers; women in antique, ankle-length skirts playing basketball (they had formed a team years before the men got around to doing so) on packed earth. Then there are the team photos: groups of young men stiffly posed, arms folded, their faces unflinchingly serious, as though sport involved no fun at all.

In the very early years, the first athletic impulses centered on intramural baseball, football, track, and wrestling matches organized between classes and crammed into the little time left to students between their studies. Ultimately, an athletic association was formed, and teams from area colleges began playing each other. The students from Oklahoma A&M chose orange and black for their colors and called themselves the Tigers, after their idol, Princeton University. With no budget and meager facilities, the students largely organized themselves and relied upon willing professors to serve as officials and coaches.

Among the earliest and most influential of these all-purpose mentors was Lowery Layman Lewis, a professor of veterinary medicine. In Doris Dellinger's comprehensive 1987 look at OSU athletic history, *Intercollegiate Athletics*, the venerable Lewis is depicted as an early and vigorous patron of athletics, arriving at the school in 1896 and helping organize A&M track and football teams.

Always eager to lend his oversight and skill, Lewis helped locate and lay out the school's original football field. In 1910, Oklahoma A&M named the field in Lewis's honor. Almost a century later, the name remains, even as the stadium surrounding it, renamed last year for *über*-oil man and OSU alumnus Boone Pickens, undergoes a multiyear, $86 million renovation.

IT CAN BE SAID WITH ALMOST UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT that two people stand above all others in the history of OSU athletics. Simply put, without Ed Gallagher and Henry Iba, OSU probably would be just another overlooked also-ran in the pantheon of university athletics. Instead, early on, this pair set the tone and

Dr. L.L. Lewis trains the 1904 track team, above. Adyson Masters, left, waits to get a snapshot of the OSU marching band before the 2004 Cotton Bowl. Top of page, Henry Iba.

standards for success that still apply today.

"Henry Iba set the ground rules," says Stillwater resident Pat Quinn, OSU's sports information director from 1956 to 1987. "He and Ed Gallagher set the rules, and every time we strayed from them, things would throw us good."

An Oklahoma A&M alumnus with an electrical engineering degree, Gallagher returned to his alma mater in 1916 as athletic director and wrestling coach. But it wasn't in football or track, the sports of his youth, that Gallagher was to make his unequaled contribution to OSU, but in wrestling. In fact, Gallagher could be said to have transformed and elevated the sport almost single-handedly.

"Gallagher really reformed the rules of wrestling," Quinn says. "His principals were that leanness and leverage would win over sheer bulk, and that completely overhauled intercollegiate wrestling."

Applying his engineering expertise, Gallagher developed more than three hundred wrestling holds over the course of his twenty-three-year career at OSU. Athletes flourished under his disciplined program, which was among the first to emphasize a careful diet, training regimen, and psychological preparation. Over the years, it paid off with a total of eleven NCAA tournament titles, thirty-seven individual NCAA champions, thirty-two national amateur titleholders, and three Olympic gold medalists.

"There's no question that Ed Gallagher is the biggest name in OSU wrestling," says Cowboy wrestling coach John Smith, one of the most-decorated wrestlers in university history. "He remains very inspirational to us. He started from scratch and built a great program, and he did it the right way—a way that would create longevity and would give this state something to be proud of."

Smith, a Del City native who followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Lee Roy, also a champion Cowboy wrestler, certainly gave OSU and the state bragging rights with his own wrestling exploits. During his mid-1980s career, Smith earned three Big 8 titles, two NCAA championships, and ultimately six world titles and two Olympic gold medals. In 1994, he was named Collegiate Coach of the Year after winning his first of three national titles.

"After my sophomore year in college, I went from second place at the NCAA championships to being the best wrestler in the world in my weight class," says Smith, a 1988 graduate who wrestled at 134 pounds. "I had made a commitment to be the best I could be, but you don't do the things I did without great people around you. OSU provided a great environment, great coaches."

It's an atmosphere that has seemed impervious to climate change since Gallagher's tenure and remains fully capable of attracting the nation's top athletic talent, such as Smith and others like fellow wrestler Kenny Monday.

"When it came down to it, it was the tradition of OSU and all the great wrestlers who came out of OSU that made me want to go to school there," says Monday, yet another Cowboy All-American of the early 1980s who went on to earn Olympic gold and capture the world championship. "I felt great about the wrestling coaches, and I wanted to be a part of that tradition at OSU."

When Monday was a youngster in the 1970s, his parents would take him to watch wrestling matches at OSU. The big crowds helped solidify his passion for the sport early and set him on the path to becoming a Cowboy. Monday's most thrilling moment as a Cowboy wrestler came during his senior year, when he was going for the school's all-time pin record inside Gallagher-Iba Arena.

"I had a match on Saturday and didn't get it," says the forty-two-year-old Monday, a Tulsa native who runs a wrestling club in Dallas. "I had another chance [for the record] on Monday, and it just built up over the weekend. The house was packed, and when I got it, the crowd went crazy. It was awesome."

If Gallagher's legacy created the foundation for unparalleled achievement, it also yoked its successive coaches and athletes to an almost crushing but always inspiring burden of high expectations.

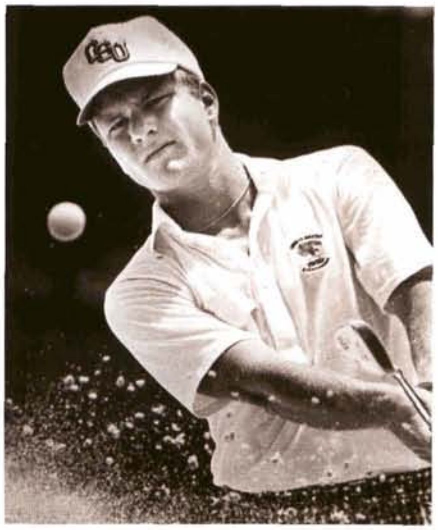
THE COWBOYS A U.S. deputy marshal, Frank 'Pistol Pete' Eaton of Perkins was introduced to campus life around 1923 in a street parade.

"The wrestling program continues to step up and fulfill its legacy," says Smith. "But the expectations are not to finish in the top ten. They are to win a national championship every time, and that leaves little room to do anything else."

Even so, he says, "That's why this program excels, because of the high expectations."

THE EXPECTATIONS SET BY OSU'S OTHER ENDURING icon, Henry Iba, were no less monumental, and neither were his contributions as basketball coach, athletic director, and perhaps most importantly, as the one person whose style and ethics have left an indelible imprint on Cowboy athletics and beyond. More than a decade after his passing, he is still referred to as "Mr. Iba."

"Mr. Iba would be the one viewed as Mr. OSU," Birdwell says. "There are thousands of people who have made a difference here, but Mr. Iba would be the caliber of person who has been a hallmark of OSU. He was passionate about his sport, always striving



Clockwise from top left: 1945 NCAA championship basketball team with coach Henry Iba; OSU president David J. Schmidly shows his true colors during the Elite Eight game against Pittsburgh; 1988 Heisman trophy winner Barry Sanders breaks a tackle; Eddie Sutton—with Tony Allen in the forefront—during the Final Four semifinal game against Georgia Tech. This page, golfer Scott Verplank. Top of page, Michele Smith.

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Orange Appeal

Boone Pickens Stadium and Lewis Field

for excellence and aiming for the top."

From 1934 to 1970, Iba ran Cowboy basketball, turning it from a sport mired in mediocrity into one of OSU's most celebrated athletic programs.

"Mr. Iba is the reason I wanted to invest my life in sports and athletics," the seventy-five-year-old Quinn says. "Some people think he was seven feet tall. I think he was nine-and-a-half-feet tall."

Although beloved figures sometimes tend to be overly lionized, it is hard to exaggerate Iba's impact on OSU and upon basketball itself. His influence is felt today in the way the game is coached, and his presence remains a real one at OSU.

"Of all the shadows cast on the game of basketball, his was the biggest," says Bob Knight, Texas Tech men's basketball coach and an admirer and longtime friend of Iba's. "I loved the guy like a father."

Decades ago, Iba periodically would drop in on Knight during Hoosier practices, offering sage advice and support. Years after Iba's retirement, Knight brought him back to help coach the 1984 U.S. Olympic men's basketball team. Iba celebrated his eightieth birthday during the games.

"We were playing a game that night, and we all sang happy birthday to him. When we were done, he said in his real gravelly voice, 'We gotta get after their ass tonight, get with it on the boards!'"

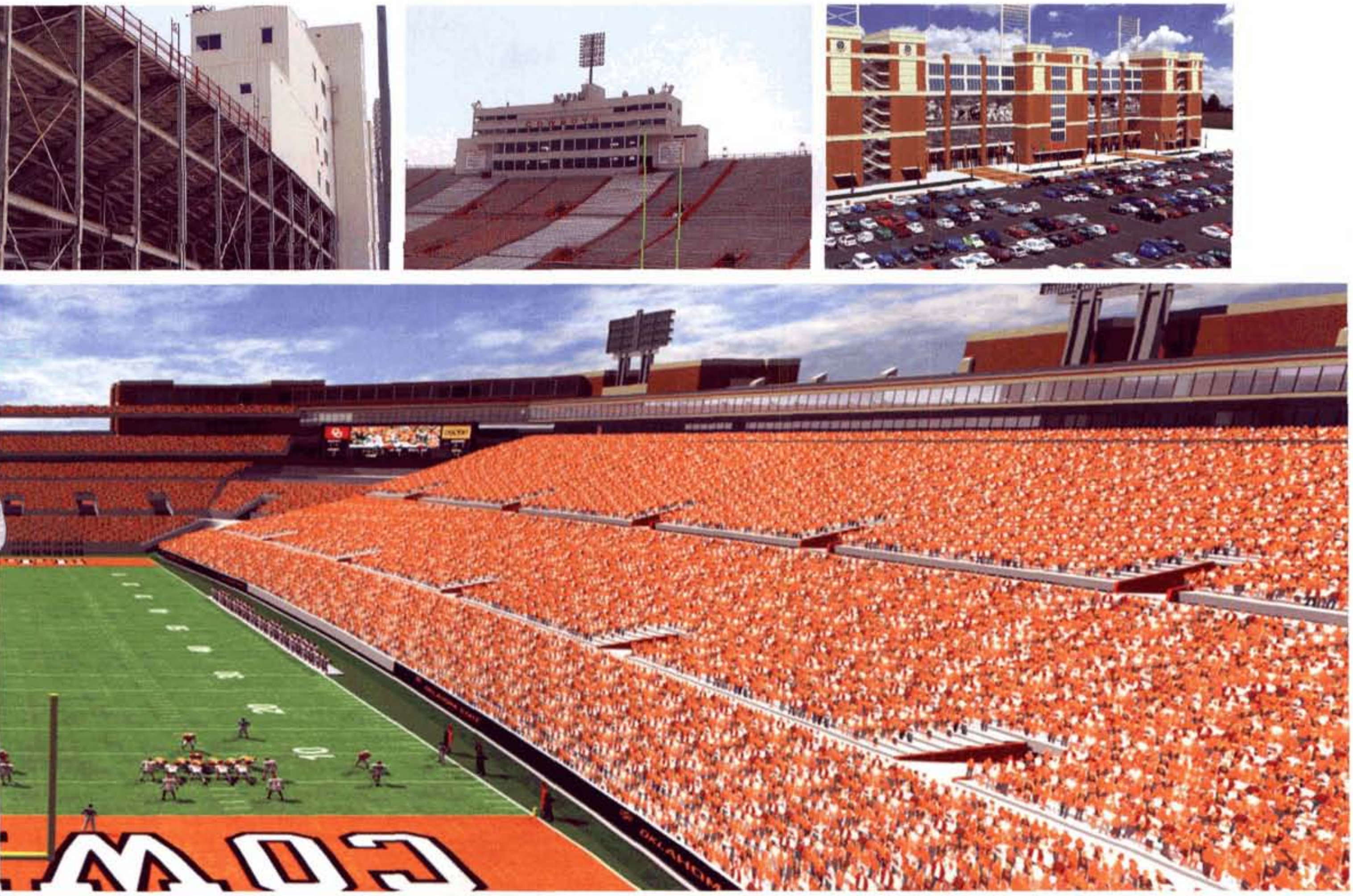
Of course, to see Iba's influence at work today, one only needs to watch Eddie Sutton in action.

"He definitely shaped my philosophical approach to the way the game should be taught and coached," says Sutton, who played for Iba from 1956 to 1958 and was a graduate assistant coach for Iba for a year. "Probably 70 percent of the things we do today, he taught me as a player."

Fiery on the sidelines during a game, Iba enforced his vision of basketball through ruthless discipline and practice.

"He was a taskmaster," Sutton says. "They called him the Iron Duke, and that was a good way to describe him. In my opinion, he would not be able to coach today because of rules we have. We're only allowed twenty hours a week max of practice today, and I don't know

CONSTRUCTION, CLAY J. BILLMAN; RENDERINGS, OSU ATHLETICS



Artist renderings and construction photos depict the new Boone Pickens Stadium and its ongoing renovations, which, when completed in 2007, will seat 53,000.

Ride 'em, Cowboys, to your brand-new home on the range. Thanks to a generous $20 million stadium contribution (part of a $70 million donation to the university) by Boone Pickens, the five-year, $86 million renovation of Boone Pickens Stadium will feature a new brick exterior and bowled stadium, athletic center, updated restrooms and concession areas, state-of-the-art press box, and first-class club seats and suites. "It's unlike any other stadium in the country because it connects to Gallagher-Iba Arena and the Athletic Center," says Craig Clemons, senior director of athletic development. Lewis Field, named for the dean of veterinary medicine Lowery Layman Lewis in 1910, will retain its name. **—Brooke Adcox**

if he could have adapted to that. Our sessions back then were always over three hours, three times a day, and not many days off."

Iba's skills as a basketball tactician, his fair-mindedness as an athletic director, and the simpler era in which he lived produced a culture that probably won't be replicated again. With his disciplined and defense-oriented style, Iba coached the Cowboys to successive NCAA championships in 1945 and 1946 and had a career 655 victories and 316 losses. Twice named National Coach of the Year by the Helms Athletic Foundation, he also led U.S. Olympic teams to gold medals in 1964 and 1968 and a silver medal in 1972.

"We were great believers in Mr. Iba's system and what he told us, and we carried out his orders very well," says Bob Kurland from his Florida home. Now seventy-nine, Kurland played on Iba's back-to-back championship teams.

"His principal philosophy was that a good defense will win a greater percentage of games than a good offense. We worked hour after hour on that. He was a real stickler for man-to-man defense."

Although it seems strange today to think so, Kurland, standing nearly seven feet tall, was a gamble on Iba's part. In the days before multimillion-dollar contracts, smaller, nimbler athletes dominated basketball, and most coaches considered unusually tall men to be anomalies, lacking the stamina and coordination to play the game.

Iba solved Kurland's supposed "problems" the way he rectified most of his tactical and personnel issues: through relentless practice and conditioning drills, often eight to nine hours a day. Together, the Missouri native and his coach ushered in a new era in basketball, one in which big men would come to dominate virtually every aspect of the game and opening the door for future greats such as Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Shaquille O'Neal.

"Mr. Iba was a great disciplinarian," says Kurland, a three-time All-American, two-time Olympic gold medalist, and twice named the NCAA tournament's most valuable player. "He had to pay the price for success, and he knew that success doesn't come easily.

One way or another, you pay for it in time, talent, and energy, and Mr. Iba made us believe that."

The long list of OSU athletic standouts bears ample witness to the effort, sacrifice, and talent required to achieve greatness, but perhaps no one understands the price to be paid for success more than Sam Aubrey. By 1943, Aubrey, one of Iba's best players, had finished his junior year at Oklahoma A&M. But the world was at war, and he knew where his duty lay.

In April 1943, Aubrey left for Fort Sill before being sent as a replacement officer to the 91st Infantry Division, which was locked in combat against the Germans in northern Italy. Aubrey's future was nearly destroyed when a German bullet tore through his left hip in September 1944.

"It worried me that I wouldn't be able to play again," says the eighty-two-year-old Stillwater resident. "I woke up in a body cast, and it scared the pee-waden out of me."

Shipped home, Aubrey spent a year in rehabilitation before attempting his basketball comeback, something nearly everyone thought impossible—everyone, that is, but Henry Iba.

"I asked Mr. Iba if I could come out, and he said, 'Definitely,'" says Aubrey, whose injury rendered one leg an inch-and-a-half shorter than the other. "I was twenty-three years old, had only one year left, and I wanted to play bad."

Healed and standing six-foot-four-and-a-half, Aubrey became starting forward on the 1946 NCAA championship team along with other starters Bob Kurland, Blake Williams, J.L. Parks, and Weldon Kern.

"I wanted to play and win that championship so badly. It was a great thrill when we did," Aubrey says of the 43-40 win over North Carolina.

THE COWBOYS It wasn't until 1984 that OSU officially adopted 'Cowboys' as the university student body nickname, despite the fact that it had been in popular use for nearly sixty years.

Iba invited Aubrey back to OSU in 1953 as his assistant coach, and upon Iba's retirement in 1970, he assumed head coaching duties. To this day, he stays in touch with the remaining starters of that 1946 championship team, who gathered in 1996 for a reunion to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of their championship.

While the team competed during the 1940s, Aubrey says, "I remember Mr. Iba saying, 'Look around this room; these will be your friends for the rest of your life.' And that's how it was, because we stuck with each other, and we still stick by each other."

In the chronicles of OSU sports, the years 1945 and 1946 may go down as the school's most luminous. With the nation flush from the victory of World War II and soldiers resuming their studies, the school dominated intercollegiate athletics, with NCAA championships in wrestling and basketball and an unbeaten Cowboy football team who won the Sugar Bowl championship before a crowd of 75,000.

THE STORY OF OSU ATHLETICS ISN'T, OF COURSE, ONLY about wrestling and basketball. There has been a remarkable level of achievement across a range of sports from baseball and track to women's softball and golf, yet another legacy of the farsighted Iba, who ensured that no sports program went unsupported, even if budgets by today's standards were laughably small.

In fact, the golf program, with nine NCAA championships, is the second-most successful sport at OSU if taken strictly in number of titles. In each of its fifty-eight years of existence, the men's golf team has qualified for the NCAA championship and brought back forty-eight conference titles to Stillwater. Its coaching legacy is equally solid: Only two men have coached the fifty-eight seasons, Labron Harris Sr. and current coach Mike Holder.

In baseball, the Cowboys have made twenty trips to the Men's College World Series in Omaha and won an NCAA title in 1959. Year after year, Cowboy baseball remains among the best programs in the country, producing major league sluggers like Pete Incaviglia—named College Baseball Player of the Century by *Baseball America*—and Robin Ventura. Last June saw third baseman Josh Fields drafted in the first round by the Chicago White Sox. A two-sport star, Fields also led the Cowboys to a 9-4 record on the gridiron last year as quarterback and owns the school touchdown passing record with fifty-five.

For Los Angeles Dodger Ventura, his time as a Cowboy in the late 1980s—when he earned *Baseball America*'s Player of the Decade honors, assembled a fifty-eight-game hitting streak, and brought home a gold medal from the 1988 Seoul Olympic games—still defines his outlook as a professional.

"When you're a professional, it's your job," says Ventura. "At OSU, there was a team chemistry and camaraderie that was a lot different. It was hard work, but it was the most fun for me when we took to the field as a team and we felt pretty strong together. That's definitely something that's not always there in pro sports. I basically try to stay in the frame of mind that I had at OSU. That's the fun part of playing, and I keep that with me."

As with most colleges, football success at OSU has been cyclical, but the teams, if not destined for conference and national championships, have played hard overall.

"Everyone here is looking for us to have a success that would be similar to that experienced in some of the other programs," says head coach Les Miles. "We are in a community where success is a comfortable expectation, and we feel that expectation and enjoy it."

During a 1961 wrestling match at OSU, coach Myron Roderick assumes his 'charge' pose at Gallagher-Iba Arena. Masaaki Hatta, who won the national championship in 1962, is shown behind the coach. Top of page, Robin Ventura.

RODERICK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, OSU LIBRARY; VENTURA, OSU ATHLETICS

Former OSU fullback and graduate assistant football coach Jim Tero recalls the mid-1980s, one of the Cowboys' most successful periods in recent times, when he played alongside two of the game's greats: Thurman Thomas and Barry Sanders.

"It was a great opportunity, playing against some of the best teams in the country," says Tero, a walk-on. "In 1985 we were ranked up there in the top five. That was pretty heady."

That year, the Cowboys earned a bid to the Gator Bowl, and in 1987 and 1988, they enjoyed back-to-back 10-2 seasons, and the latter year, Barry Sanders won the Heisman trophy. Now a regional vice president for a steel company in Tulsa, Tero remains a devoted fan whose time at OSU taught him that while success on the field was always worth fighting for, it was the people in the program who really mattered.

"When my dad was diagnosed with cancer during my senior year, the coaching staff sent him flowers and went out of their way to make him comfortable and accommodate him during games," Tero says. "I felt a lot of support. And the fact that they asked me to stick around and coach was wonderful. It taught me that if you work hard, good things are going to happen to you."

FOR THE 452 COWBOY AND COWGIRL STUDENT-ATHLETES who participate in OSU's sixteen varsity sports, good things continue to happen, even with an annual athletic department budget that at $31 million is less well funded than many of its Big 12 peers.

"We certainly have less resources than some of our competitors," says Birdwell. "But I believe we have a higher degree of family atmosphere and camaraderie than what I've witnessed elsewhere. It's more than a job to people who work here in the athletic department; it's a passion to effectively represent the university."

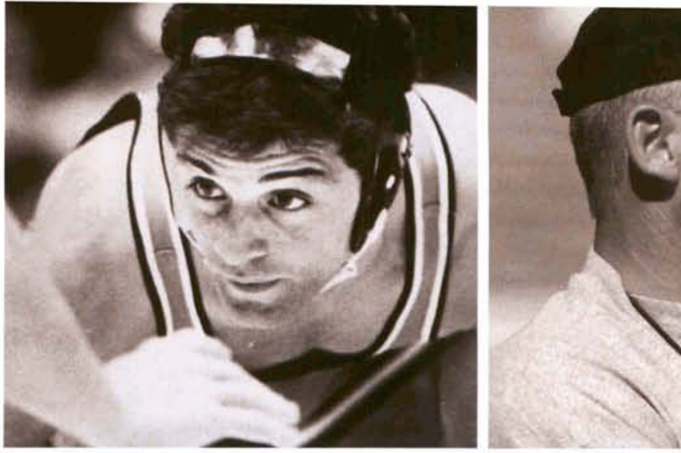
Although the athletic budget has grown 20 percent in the last three years with funds generated from ticket sales, private gifts, television revenues, and Big 12 allocations, keeping up with the Joneses is not an easy task at the collegiate level. Conference schools like Texas, Nebraska, Texas A&M, and OU have colossal budgets and seemingly endless reserves of deep pockets.

"OSU definitely gets more bang for its athletic buck than just about any other school," says Quinn. "It's always been that way."

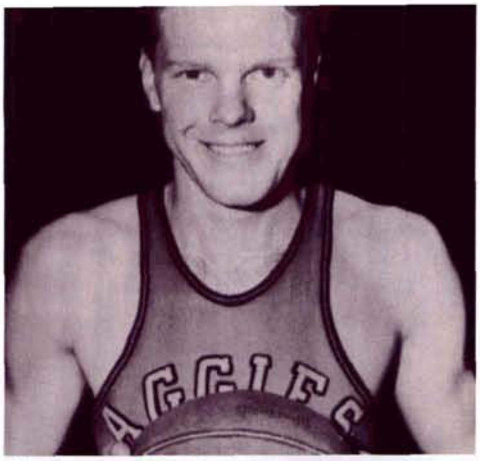
Why? Everyone from athletic directors and coaches to players and fans will tell you it boils down to a combination of fierce competitiveness borne of a great tradition, iconic figures with the highest ideals and aspirations, and a brand of fan loyalty that does something that even the biggest athletic budgets can't do—create a sense of family.

"There's a tremendous and heartfelt loyalty toward Cowboy and Cowgirl athletics," says women's basketball coach Julie Goodenough. "They just bleed orange."

Those who actually bleed orange are more than likely members of the Posse, an athletic donor body made up largely of OSU



Top row: 1986 NCAA wrestling champion and Olympic gold medalist John Smith; Head football coach Les Miles; Bob Kurland, who played on Henry Iba's championship basketball teams. Bottom row: OSU students cheer as the Cowboys take the court against Texas. Opposite, top of page: Ed Gallagher.



TOP ROW & GALLAGHER, OSU ATHLETICS; FANS, NATE BILLINGS/THE OKLAHOMAN

alumni. The 7,000 members (who pay a minimum of $100 to join for varying levels of privileges), bring in about $7 million a year for Cowboy and Cowgirl athletics programs, says associate athletic director Joe Muller.

With the Cowboys' football fortunes looking brighter and basketball and wrestling at or near the top in the country, the Posse likely will grow in coming years.

"We're feeling a wave of enthusiasm about OSU athletics that we haven't felt in a long time," Muller says.

THAT SPIRIT OF DOING MORE WITH LESS AND DOING IT with energy, grace, good sportsmanship, and enthusiasm is everywhere apparent in Gallagher-Iba Arena during the March 6, 2004, OSU versus Texas A&M contest.

Throughout the game, Eddie Sutton strikes a host of familiar courtside poses and facial expressions running the gamut from near indifference to outrage. At one moment he appears extraordinarily relaxed, the next his six-foot-two frame erupts with surprising speed from his chair, barking his indignation at an official or sloppy play. At no time is the game's outcome in question.

It ends in a 70-41 rout with the Cowboys claiming the Big 12 Championship, their first conference title in thirty-nine years and accomplished by a team notable for its lack of star power. It's a group of young men Bob Kurland says resembles his fabled 1946 squad more than any other because of the way they melded together under Sutton.

"Sutton's an excellent coach," says Bob Kurland. "The discipline and leadership he displays are in the Iba tradition."

Sutton says Iba treated his players like family, and that's what he strives to do. Perhaps more than any other Cowboy basketball squad that he has coached, Sutton sees that one-for-all attitude in this group.

"They really bonded together, and they were a team that had a chemistry," says Sutton. "The players were willing to make personal sacrifices in the name of the team."

Someday, the Cowboy basketball team will be Eddie Sutton's no longer. His son, Sean, will take over where his father leaves off. The elder Sutton is confident the team—and the tradition—are in capable hands.

"He'll do an unbelievable job," Sutton says. "He has the same love for OSU that I do. He's done half the coaching in the last four or five years. I have great confidence in Sean to continue the tradition we've rekindled."

Everyone knows the story by now: Sutton led this team all the way to the Final Four in San Antonio, but an NCAA championship has been delayed for another time, another team, perhaps another coach. For now, the tide had risen once again inside Gallagher-Iba Arena. The fans had received another transfusion of orange blood sufficient to sustain and energize their loyalty for a long time to come. Amid the hoopla, net clippings, high-fives, camera flashes, and toothy grins, it doesn't take much to imagine Iba, Lewis, and Gallagher standing courtside, smiling. The giants are definitely still in the house.

Mister Bob

A Short Story

By Kent Lee Hawkins

Photography by Kristin Viens

WE WERE FARM BOYS, MY BROTHER AND I, with the usual chores to do each day, but when they were finished, our time was our own. One early fall afternoon, we decided to pay a visit to Mister Bob's place. He lived down in the Verdigris River bottoms, his house surrounded by a huge grove of pecan trees.

It wasn't really a house in the traditional sense, more a glorified shack. There was a huge stone fireplace originally connected to a log cabin, which had mostly succumbed to rot. Over the years, various residents added on and repaired in a piecemeal fashion so that the house had become a crazy patchwork quilt of discarded sheet metal and old advertising signs. Its dominant feature was the sagging front-porch roof, repaired with a large, embossed RC Cola sign on which rust was slowly but surely winning its silent battle.

As much as we admired Mister Bob's house—for it seemed to us like living in a grand clubhouse all year round—that wasn't why we came to visit. It was the dogs, dozens of dogs, mostly coon dogs, because other than selling hundreds of pounds of pecans each year, Mister Bob primarily made his living selling coon dogs to hunters. The coon dogs were kept in a series of ramshackle pens behind the house. They rarely left their pens except to hunt because Mister Bob said a good coon dog should only run free to chase coon scent.

We had a dog of our own, but she was so old, she rarely left the front porch. Being country boys, we appreciated a good hunting dog, but the dogs we came to see were actually Mister Bob's pets. These dogs had free run of the pecan grove, and since his nearest neighbor was over four miles away, they didn't disturb anyone. Normally, out in the country when you approached a farmhouse, some surly dog would come out to greet you, standing at the edge of his turf and barking until someone came out. Not Mister Bob's dogs. They lived for someone to make a social call.

We used to ride ponies down to Mister Bob's place, but the hard truth was that we had outgrown them. Our long, teenage legs nearly touched the ground astride our old ponies. We tried to get Dad to buy us horses, but he said feeding pet ponies was bad enough; he'd be damned if he would feed horses, too. So we had to make do with bicycles, since we weren't old enough to drive. Not that we didn't know how to drive. Both of us had been driving from a tender age, but to get to Mister Bob's place, you had to cross old Highway 66. That was forbidden. The gravel roads around our dad's place were okay, but any portion of the highway was off-limits.

We would bounce our bicycles down the rutted dirt road that wound through the trees and undergrowth to Mister Bob's place. It was a long ride, but the dogs always made it worthwhile. We would throw our bikes down in the packed dirt yard and immediately be surrounded by a pack of unconstrained joy. Dogs that couldn't get in close because of the crush of the pack would often wag their tails so hard that their entire bodies would begin to vibrate, and then they would roll over on their backs, unable to contain their enthusiasm. My brother liked to throw himself to the ground and let the pack cover him in a multicolored blanket of fur and pink-tongued dog slobber.

They were all breeds or no breed at all, depending on how you looked at it. Mister Bob called them Heinz 57s. We suspected Mister Bob slept on the floor with these dogs in a big pile because there was no bed in his house. You would think a bunch of dogs living down in the deep woods like that would be covered with ticks and fleas, but just the opposite—they were the cleanest dogs you ever saw. Many times I watched Mister Bob sit on his porch step, patiently picking ticks off his dogs. He dropped them one by one into a tin can with an inch or so of kerosene in the bottom. During the summer he took the dogs down to the river and scrubbed them with big bars of lye soap. No flea could survive that. The dogs were patient and must have come to accept these ministrations as their natural due.

Mister Bob had a name for every dog, but we rarely could keep them straight. Many seemed to be named after Confederate generals, but he used first names such as Jubal, Robert, or Sidney and reserved full names only for discipline, much like you would chastise a child. "Robert E. Lee, you leave that puppy alone now, you hear!" Mister Bob spoke longer sentences to dogs than to people.

There was one coon dog that wasn't penned up, an old bitch named Missy who always laid on the sagging porch with one paw propped up on the points of her claws, her head up, and assuming a regal, queenly attitude. Her baggy teats arrayed down her belly like medals signifying her victories, of which she had many as the mother of several litters of coon hounds. The other dogs accorded her respect and did not bother her.

She still went on the hunt with Mister Bob, but in an elevated capacity. She didn't run with the pack anymore, but would sit on the front seat of Mister Bob's decrepit pickup truck with her nose out the window sniffing as he drove very slowly down a back road. When she caught a scent, she would bay one long, mournful note, then Mister Bob would stop to open the cage in the back of the truck and let the pack run.

Only after we had stroked, petted, and hugged as many dogs as we could—to fairly distribute the overall joy of our arrival—could we address their owner. Maybe owner is the wrong word, because I believe the dogs viewed Mister Bob as one of them, the leader of the pack. He dressed the same year-round: patched and faded heavy canvas hunting clothes; tall, heavily oiled boots; and a battered felt fedora with several pieces of string tied around it for a hatband.

He was well under six feet, but he seemed tall, always holding himself very erect. I don't believe I ever saw him slouch. He was lean, with a long, narrow face and aquiline nose. His jaw was strong, with a chin that seemed to end in a point. He wore his black hair cut so close to his scalp that it matched the near-constant stubble on his face. He looked like he might have some Indian blood, but he never commented on it. As a matter of fact, he rarely spoke full sentences. He always responded politely to any questions, but as far as being a conversationalist, he didn't qualify. His one vice was cigarettes, which he rolled with one hand while focusing on something else entirely.

Mister Bob appeared at the door, smiled his shy smile, and motioned for us to come in the house. We always wondered how old he was. He was neither young nor old. We couldn't pin an age on him because as we grew older he seemed to remain the same. As we sat around his heavy oak table on a mismatched set of old kitchen chairs, we would pepper him with questions about various things. If we hadn't talked, he would have been content to enjoy our company in silence. Our curiosity about him was fueled by the fact that no one in the community knew much about him. Our dad said he had a woman with him when he moved here about fifteen years ago, but she didn't stay long.

A typical conversation at Mister Bob's started with my brother trying in vain to steer the conversation. Once, in frustration, he blurted something like, "Mister Bob, have you ever been married?"

Mister Bob, with a bemused look, answered, "Yep."

I chimed in, "What became of her?"

He squinted through his cigarette smoke and said, "Left."

I came back with, "Why did she leave?"

He grinned ever so slightly and said, "Didn't like dogs."

When we first started going to see Mister Bob, I thought he was having fun with us, mocking us in a gentle sort of way. But when I would see him in town, he responded to the adults in the same laconic manner. Perhaps he was having fun with all of us. If so, no one seemed to mind.

One Saturday, a shiny new station wagon with fancy wood panels down the sides and Tennessee plates turned up into the front yard. The driver was an older, portly man with a straight-stemmed pipe clenched between his teeth. The dogs greeted him with their usual unbridled enthusiasm, leaving slobber marks on his neatly pressed khaki pants as he strode towards the porch. Mister Bob got up to meet him halfway, reaching out to clasp the older man's vigorous handshake.

With a booming voice, the older man exclaimed, "Damn good to see you again, Mister Bob. I've come for those hounds we talked about last year. Are they ready to hunt?"

Mister Bob took the cigarette out of his mouth and cupped it in his hand before answering, "Yep."

He motioned toward the back of the house and placed the cigarette back between his lips. The older man followed, and we filed in behind. Mister Bob went to one of the pens and, taking two of the braided leather leads hanging on the gate, stepped inside. The coon dogs were excited because they thought they were going to get to hunt. With their noses pointed up and sniffing the air furiously, they bayed repeatedly, sending up a tremendous din. Mister Bob snapped the leads onto the collars of two young dogs and brought them out of the pen. The older man immediately began to examine the dogs, running his hand down the inside of their legs to feel the muscle, holding their heads up to examine their teeth, all the time exclaiming, "Fine, fine. Damn good! Outstanding!"

Looking up at Mister Bob, the kneeling older man said in his hearty, booming voice, "Great physical specimens. But are they really ready to hunt with my dogs?"

In no hurry to reply, Mister Bob absent-mindedly rolled another cigarette. "Missy trained 'em. They'll hunt."

The older man stood brushing dirt from his knees and guffawing. "Damn right! If Missy says they're ready, by God they're ready."

Reaching into his pants pocket, he pulled out a large roll of bills with a rubber band around it, peeled off a few, and handed them to Mister Bob. "Is that the price we agreed on?"

Mister Bob offered back one of the bills and said, "Nope."

The older man slapped Mister Bob on the back. "That's a bonus. I appreciate a man who delivers what he promises."

Reaching into his hip pocket, he pulled forth a silver flask, offered it to Mister Bob, and then immediately apologized. "Oh, sorry. Forgot you don't touch the stuff." Turning to us boys, he started to offer the flask and then, with a dismissive gesture, said, "Ah, you're just boys." With that he tilted the flask back and took a long snort for himself.

As Mister Bob led the hounds toward the station wagon, the older man lit his pipe and inquired, "What you gonna do when old Missy up and dies on you?"

A flicker of a hurt look crossed his face, but he answered in his usual economic fashion, "Got Jemima in training."

The dogs were loaded into a fancy dog crate in the back of the station wagon, and in a cloud of pipe smoke, the car backed out and drove off slowly down the rutted dirt road.

A couple of weeks after that Saturday visit, our old dog failed to get up one cold morning. My brother and I buried her out behind the barn. We didn't mourn much; it seemed like that dog had been old forever. Not long after that, I was out working on the tractor, grease up to my elbows, parts spread out on an old board, when I saw Mister Bob's truck coming up our drive. The back was nearly full with burlap bags of pecans, and at the tailgate, with just enough room to stand, was a big mutt of a dog. I remembered him because he was probably the biggest dog at Mister Bob's place. He must have been part Saint Bernard and Lord knows what else.

Mister Bob pulled up next to where I was working; Missy sat on the seat beside him. He turned off the ignition as I greeted him and began rolling another of his endless cigarettes. Wiping my hands with a shop rag, I waited for him to speak. When he got ready, it was short and to the point.

"Hear you need a dog."

The big dog leaned excitedly over the edge of the truck bed. I went over and scratched him behind the ears as Mister Bob exited the cab to join me. "How much you want for him?" I asked.

Mister Bob blew a plume of smoke over his shoulder.

"Nothing."

"Well, I'd sure like to have him, if my dad will let me."

"It's okay. Already talked to your dad."

I dropped the tailgate, and the big dog jumped to the ground and began to nuzzle me with his enormous head. "What's his name?"

Mister Bob crushed out his cigarette before answering. "J.E.B. Stuart, but I just call him Jeb." It was then that Mister Bob gave me the longest speech I had ever heard him put together.

"You have to take good care of him, keep him clean, brush him, feed him regular, bring him to see his friends so he doesn't get lonely, but most of all, you have to love him every day. Can you do that?"

I was stunned, hearing that many words come out of Mister Bob's mouth at once, but I managed to stammer out, "Yes, sir. Thank you."

I looked up from the dog. Mister Bob was smiling at me. "Okay then, he's yours, but you have to share him with your brother."

JEB WAS MY FAITHFUL COMPANION FOR SEVERAL YEARS. He even went off to college with me in Stillwater. I met my wife because of that dog, but that's another story.

My work took me to another state, but each year I would make the trip home for the holidays and always made a point of going to see Mister Bob. The last time I went back, my dad had some bad news. He said Mister Bob was gone. The last time I'd seen him, he looked much the same. There were traces of gray in his hair, wrinkles around his eyes, but he hadn't changed appreciably since I was a boy.

I asked how he had died, assuming it was probably cancer or something with all that smoking. My dad corrected me. He had said he was gone, not dead, at least not as far as anyone could prove. They had searched all over those river bottoms for his body but didn't find a trace of him. He had quit raising the coon dogs a few years before and still had about six pet dogs when he disappeared.

When my brother and his family arrived, we drove down to Mister Bob's place, taking my brother's youngest boy with us. The cabin didn't look any different from the last time I'd seen it. The dog pens were empty and the packed dirt yard hadn't changed. Mister Bob had always kept the place neat, and his pickup sat next to the cabin where he always parked it.

We stepped up on the porch and tried the door; it wasn't locked. Inside, the sparsely furnished room looked the same. The only thing out of place was Mister Bob's clothing lying on the floor. His boots were there; a pair of trousers and his shirt and hat all lay next to them. I looked in the boots—there was a sock in each one, and oddly, the boots were laced up. I stooped over and picked up the shirt. In the pocket was a bag of tobacco and papers.

I looked at my brother. "Doesn't this look odd to you?"

"Yeah, like he just disappeared. Poof! Right out of his clothes."

My brother's boy, who was about eight at the time, had been outside playing and came in behind us. It startled us when he spoke. "He turned into a dog," he said matter-of-factly.

We turned and looked at the boy. My brother spoke to his son. "Now, you know that's not possible."

The little boy set his jaw and spoke with determination. "Yes, it is. I just saw him outside."

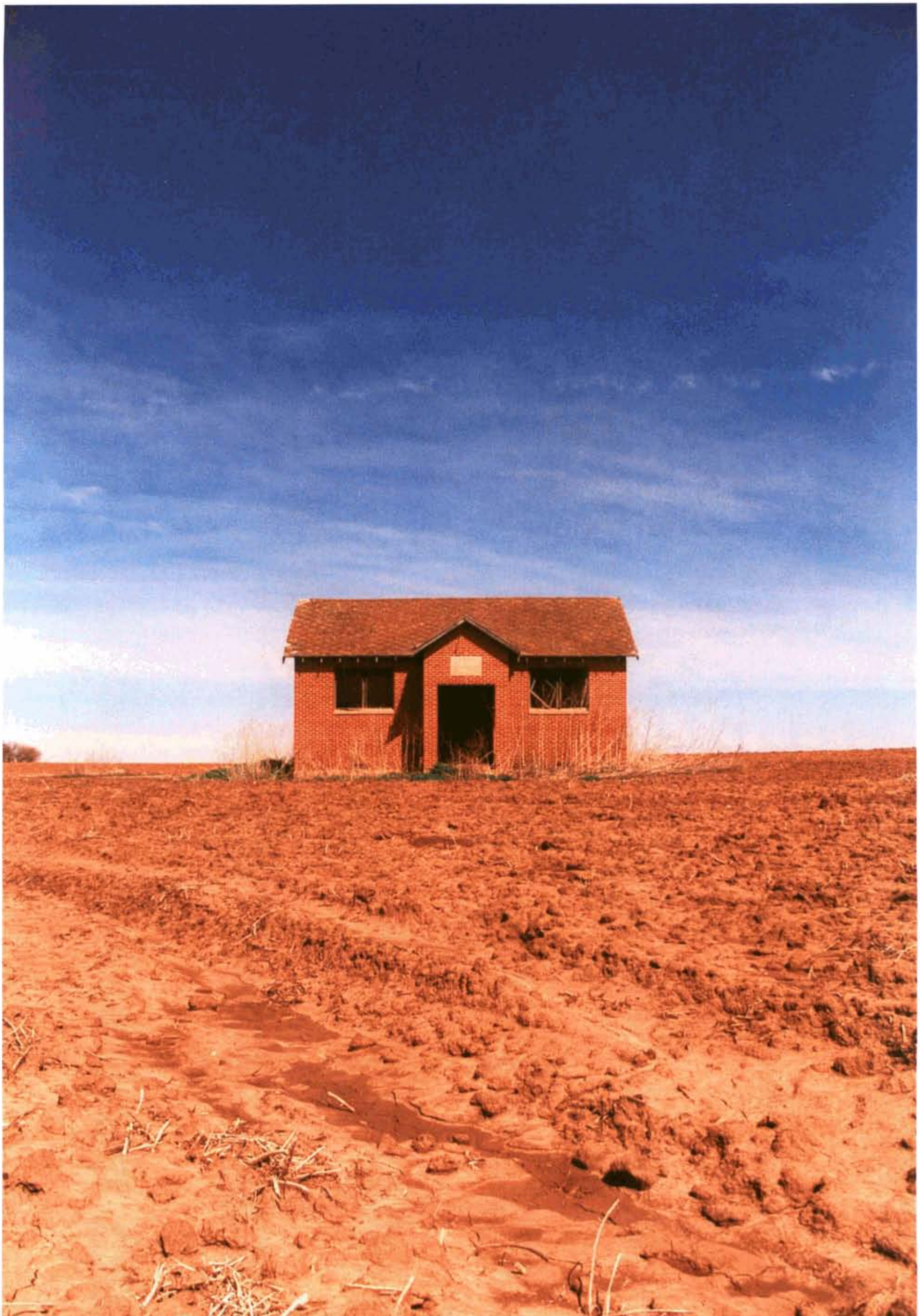
We looked out the open cabin door and saw a dog that appeared to be part coyote sliding into the underbrush across the yard. We both saw it for just a second before it disappeared from sight. My brother and I looked at each other. We were thinking the same thing, but neither of us would voice it. If Mister Bob was a dog, that is exactly what he would look like.

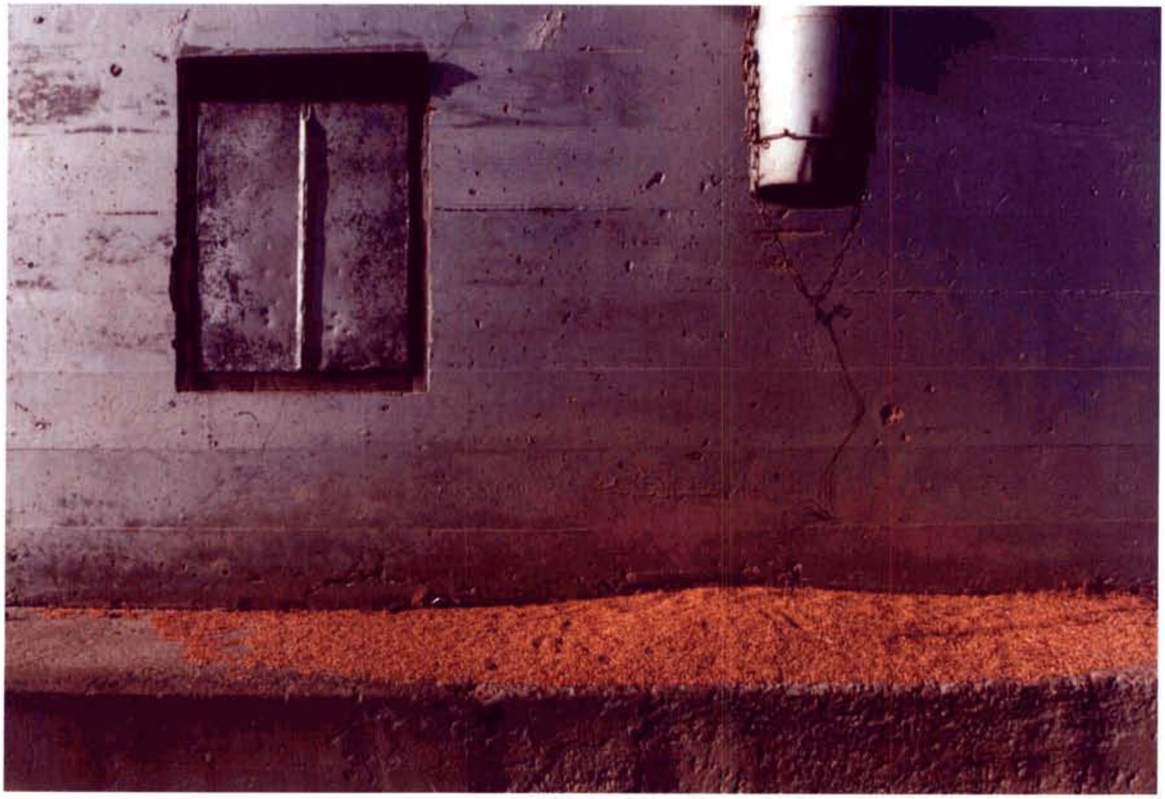
PLAINS SPOKEN

ATTRACTED TO THE SIMPLE AND OVERLOOKED, AN EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHER RECORDS OKLAHOMA.

SHANE BROWN'S IMAGES REMIND US OF the simplicity of Oklahoma and why we love it here. His deep understanding of solitary places inhabits these plaintive and plain, personal and familiar pictures, and each one will resonate with most Oklahomans. We know these places; we can pinpoint them on the maps of our lives.

In many instances, Brown's photography mirrors the same mental pictures possessed by those who grew up in the cornerstone of the Great Plains: farmland, symmetry of landscape, horizons that suggest infinity, endless vanishing points, and strangely consoling though desolate back roads.





"Whether the image is a close-up of grain at a silo or an expanse of land, this is my description of Oklahoma. This is what I think of and what I see," says the twenty-nine-year-old Tulsa native.

A 2001 OSU-Okmulgee graduate, Brown is a recent recipient of a Lew Wentz Foundation research grant. He says his goal is to document all of the Great Plains states in much the same fashion as his Oklahoma work. For him, the pictures are proof of our pioneering history, especially valuable in a world attracted more by flash and style than quiet beauty.

"Many people see these subjects every day but overlook them," he says. "We all do it. We get complacent with our surroundings, and we quit paying attention to the beauty or intriguing elements right outside our door."

As he travels the Great Plains chronicling a land and its earthly components, Shane Brown reassures us of our native state and its place in our lives.

—Louisa McCune

Joseph Gierek Fine Art in Tulsa will host a one-man show of Shane Brown's images October 14 to 30. 1512 East Fifteenth Street, (918) 592-5432; gierek.com. Brown currently is preparing for a show at the Oklahoma State Capitol in fall 2005.

Jasmine Moran

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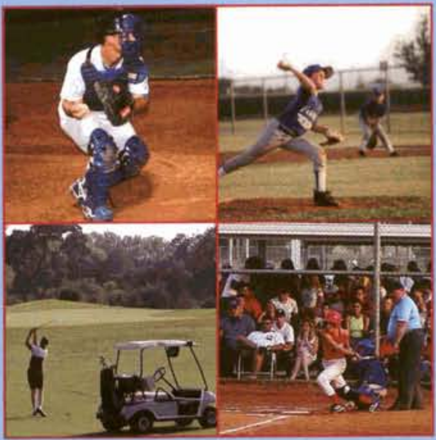

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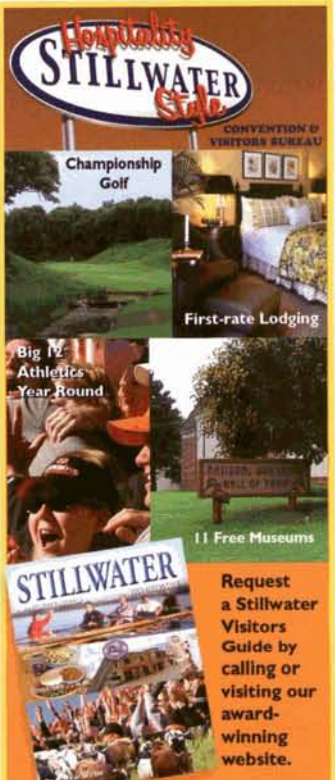

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GETAWAY GUIDE

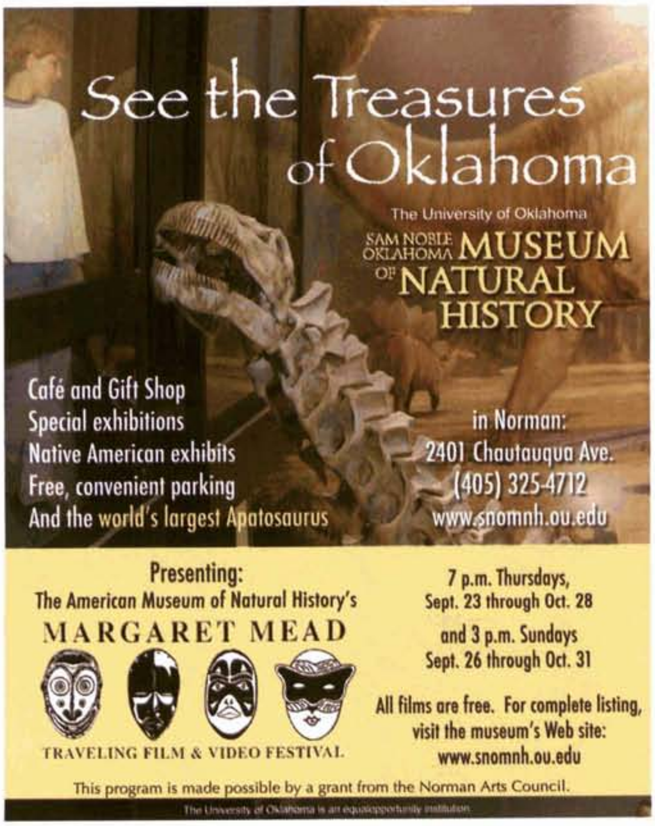
Sports Central

From whizzing fastballs on the diamond to fourth-quarter free-for-alls, sporting events abound in Oklahoma during the fall season. Whether you save your stamina for an in-state rivalry of historical proportions or just want to catch a Monday night battle of the pigskins, ditch the La-Z-Boy and make your way to one of the state's fan-friendly establishments primed for optimal viewing. With sports bar and grills from Tulsa to Norman serving up appetizers, suds, and screens aplenty, there's no better way to cover the many yards of turf ahead. Grab a friend, come hungry, and prepare to play ball.

—Andrea Lopez

Completed in 1992, the dome expansion project at Eskimo Joe's included a retractable roof and more seating capacity. The popular Stillwater restaurant now accommodates 568 people for game-day food and fun.

ESKIMO JOE'S



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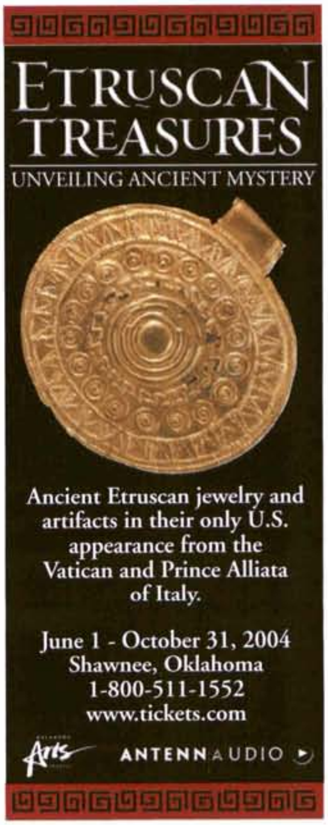

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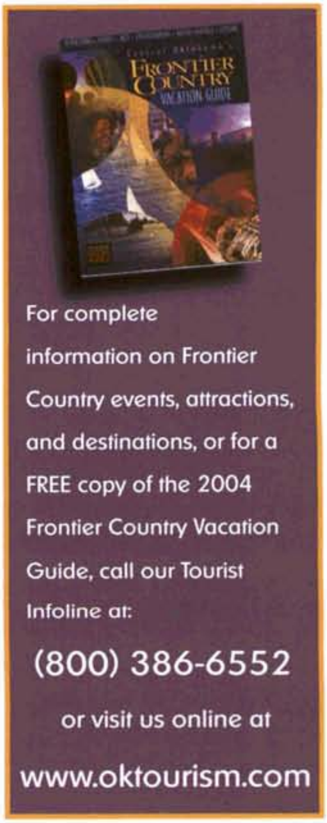

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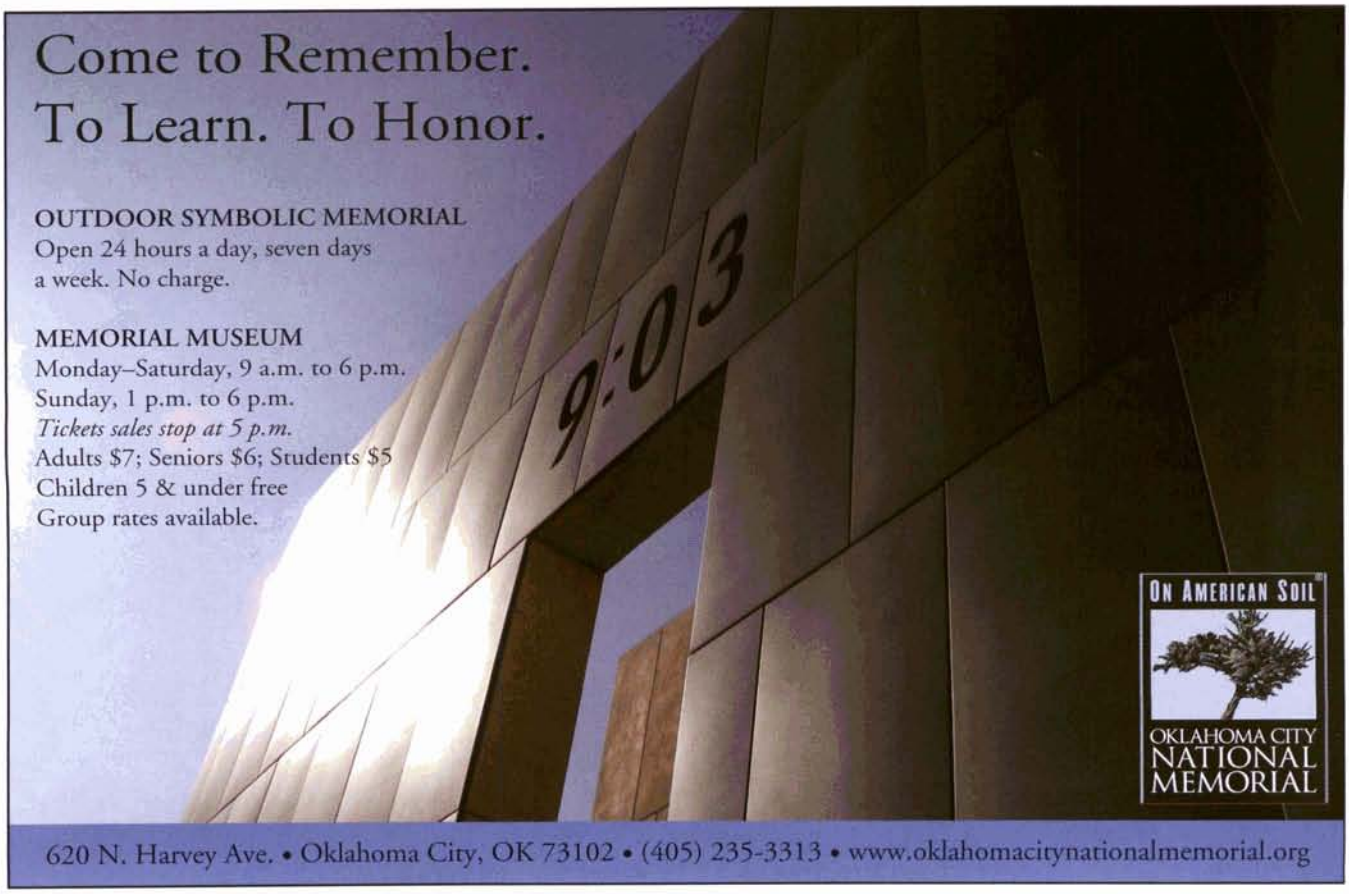

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"I'm sorry Barbara couldn't be with me here. She did tell me to get a beer and some cheese fries over at Eskimo Joe's."
—President George H.W. Bush, 1990

HIT THE BRICK

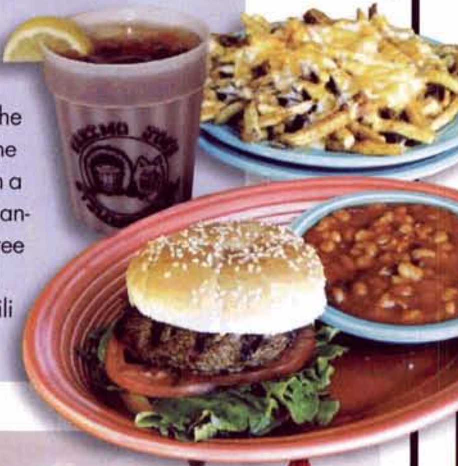
Oklahoma City's Bricktown is a sport spectator's field of dreams. One of the first restaurants in the downtown hub, **Bricktown Brewery** (1 North Oklahoma; 405/232-2739 or bricktownbrewery.com) boasts sixteen TVs, four big screens, and an all-you-can-eat barbecue buffet during OU football games. **Daiquiri Zone Sports Grill & Bar** (27 East Sheridan; 405/232-9663 or daiquirizone.com) has a flat-screen television at every booth. A favorite during Oklahoma RedHawks games, **Coach's Restaurant Brewery**'s (20 South Mickey Mantle; 405/232-6224 or coachsrestaurantbrewery.com) glass windows overlook the SBC Bricktown Ballpark. Don't miss the other Coach's in Edmond and Norman.

SHARK ATTACK

Pull up a barstool at **Cowboy Sharkies** (5840 South Memorial Drive; 918/280-9000) in Tulsa and let the indoor tailgate begin. Since January 2003, the restaurant and sports bar has provided atmosphere deluxe for major sporting events. Eighteen screens make every seat a good one, with dozens of NFL games throughout the fall and year-round in-state action. But don't let the game detract from the menu: Executive chef Robert Johnson cooks up great steaks, seafood, and barbecue for hungry sports fanatics.

Jumpin' Little Sports Joint

With fifteen TVs and a large projection screen, **Eskimo Joe's** (501 West Elm; 405/372-8896 or eskimojoes.com) is where it's at when the game clock starts tickin' in Stillwater. The sandwich du jour is the Fowl Thing with a side of famous cheese fries. General manager Todd Winters says Joe's offers a free keg during Monday night football and important OSU games and stocks a chili dog bar that'll start mouths watering.



ESKIMO JOE'S

THEY ARE THE CHAMPION'S

There's no shortage of Sooner fans at **Champion's Sports Bar and Grill** (3720 West Robinson; 405/447-7678) in Norman. When OU plays, the place fills, so count on a packed house on any game night. General manager Paul Taylor credits Champion's thirty-foot projection screen. The daily happy hour extends for the duration of the game, and the discounted drinks are a natural pairing for the bar's varied menu that includes burgers, pizza, and chicken-fried steak.

GIBSON HUGHES

Time Out

Since 1998, David Henneke and brothers Monte and Todd Humphrey have provided top-notch surroundings for folks who frequent Enid's **Pastimes** (225 South Grand; 580/233-1865). Located across the street from the David Allen Memorial Ballpark, the popular stop inspired the team name of the Enid Pastimers, the semipro baseball squad who calls it home. Manager Jeff Ernst says fans come for the two big screens and eight smaller sets, five-dollar happy hour pitchers, and tasty food. Don't leave without sampling the McNacho: A signature dish that begs to be shared, it's more chips and cheese than one fan needs.

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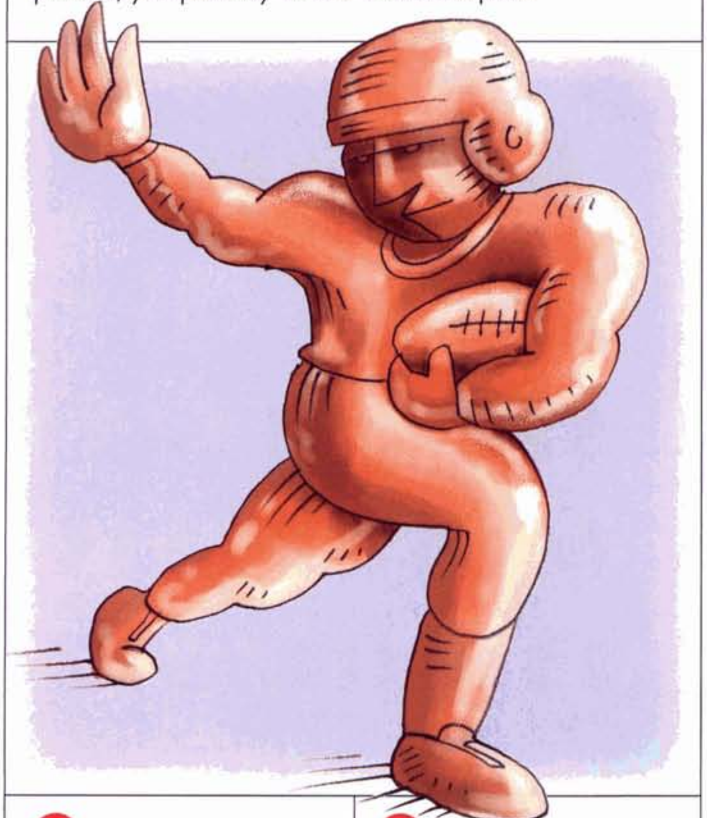
The Sports Trivia Challenge!

Hey kids, this page is especially for you. Welcome to *Oklahoma Today*'s new department, geared for children of all ages. If you have access to the Internet or sports-savvy parents, you just may be our next champion!



① *The state of Oklahoma has produced five Heisman Memorial Trophy winners, including last year's recipient, Jason White of OU. Who was the first?*

- **A. Steve Owens of OU**
- **B. Billy Sims of OU**
- **C. Billy Vessels of OU**
- **D. Barry Sanders of OSU**

② *Who was the first player in OU basketball history to have his number retired?*

- **A. Wayman Tisdale**
- **B. Alvan Adams**
- **C. Mookie Blaylock**
- **D. Brent Price**

③ *One of Oklahoma's most famous, this athlete had several nicknames, including the Commerce Comet. He played for the New York Yankees, signing with the ball club the day he graduated from high school in 1949. Who was he?*

- **A. Johnny Bench**
- **B. Mickey Mantle**
- **C. Bobby Murcer**
- **D. Allie Reynolds**

④ *This woman was a renowned basketball coach in Ada and in 1985 was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. Who was she?*

- **A. Bertha Frank Teague**
- **B. Sherri Coale**
- **C. Jane Jayroe**
- **D. Stacey Dales-Schuman**

⑤ *Dallas Mavericks forward Eduardo Najera, a star OU player who graduated in 2000, is the second player from what country to play in the NBA?*

- **A. Venezuela**
- **B. Spain**
- **C. Guatemala**
- **D. Mexico**

⑥ *Which Oklahoma high school football team has the most state championship titles?*

- **A. Jenks High School**
- **B. Carl Albert High School**
- **C. Chickasha High School**
- **D. Ada High School**

⑦ *Which of the following Oklahoma State wrestlers did not win an Olympic medal?*

- **A. John Smith**
- **B. Myron Roderick**
- **C. Yojiro Uetake**
- **D. Kenny Monday**

⑧ *King Gustav V of Sweden once said to this man, "Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world." A native Oklahoman with Sac and Fox Indian heritage, who was he?*

- **A. Andy Payne**
- **B. Jim Thorpe**
- **C. Barry Sanders**
- **D. Mickey Mantle**

⑨ *What Cincinnati Red and Binger native was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1968? This player was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989 and was named the greatest catcher of all time by* Sporting News *in 1998.*

- **A. Johnny Bench**
- **B. Robin Ventura**
- **C. Darrell Porter**
- **D. Warren Spahn**

⑩ *What brother duo had successful careers in the NBA, the older with the Cleveland Cavaliers and Orlando Magic, the younger with four teams, including the Sacramento Kings?*

- **A. Lee Roy and Lucious Selmon**
- **B. Mark and Brent Price**
- **C. Rashaun and D'Juan Woods**
- **D. Mike and Cale Gundy**

ANSWERS ON PAGE 78

GRADE YOURSELF

10 correct answers: Champion!

7-9: Silver medalist

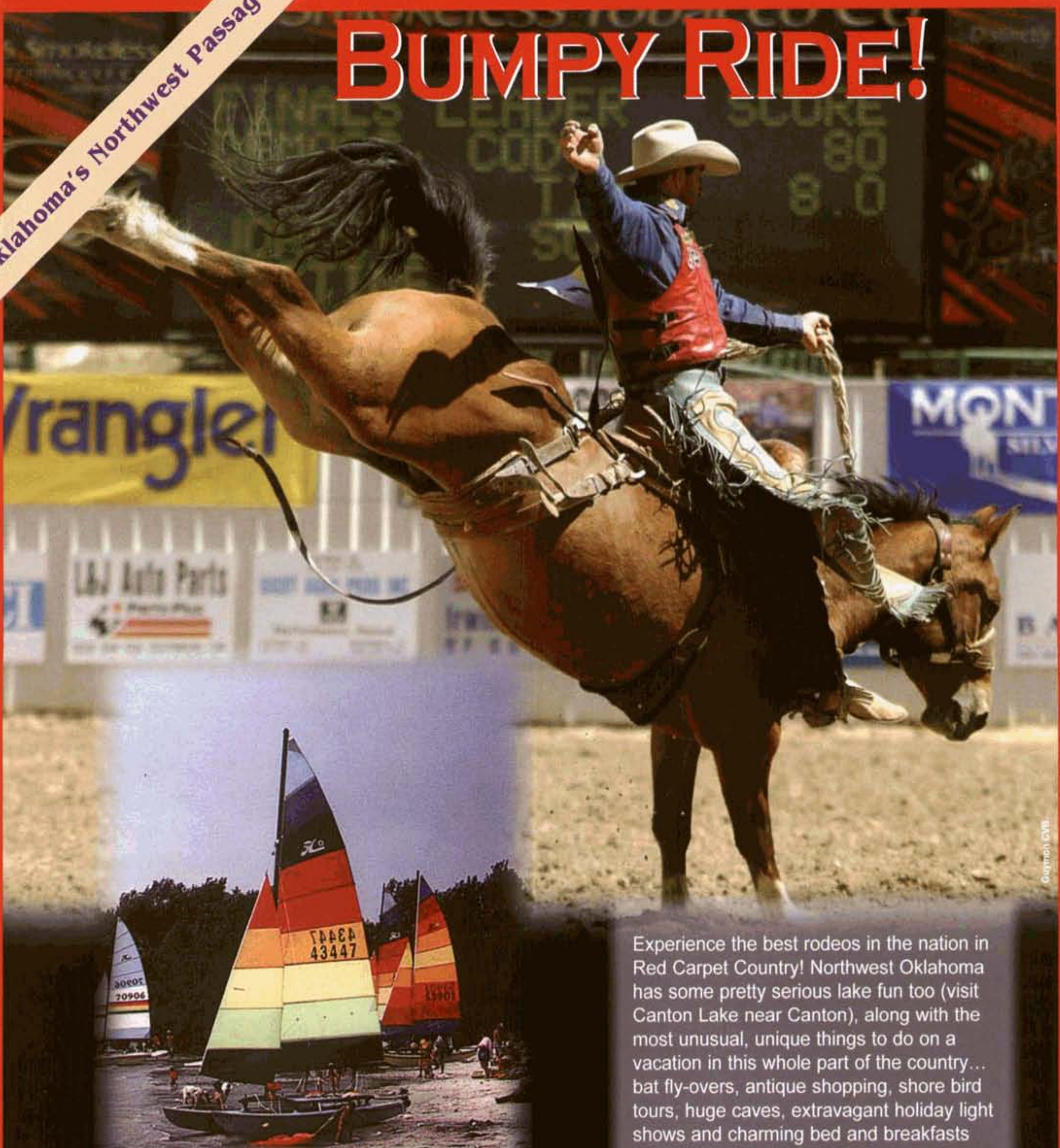
5-6: Need more practice

Less than 5: Benched

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVEN WALKER

Oklahoma's Northwest Passage

BUMPY RIDE!



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EVENTSGUIDE

A Guide to Activities and Events Statewide

ANADARKO

Caddo County Free Fair Sept 1-4, Fairgrounds. (405) 247-6651

Kiowa Black Leggins Society Dance Oct 8-10, Indian City USA. (580) 654-2300

Autumn Festival Oct 16, Randlett Park. (405) 247-6651

BRAGGS

Greenleaf State Park 3 Miles South of Braggs on S.H. 10. Sept 4, ACTION Dogs Demonstration. Sept 11, Fishing Clinic. Oct 30, Haunted Forest. (918) 487-7125

DUNCAN

Stephens County Fair & Expo Center Old U.S. 81 South. Sept 8-11, Stephens County Free Fair. Oct 23-24, Lawton Dog Fanciers All-Breed Dog Show & Obedience Trial. (580) 255-3231

Fall Fest Sept 10-11, Fuqua Park. (580) 255-3644

Fall Bluegrass Festival Sept 23-25, Shady Oaks RV Park. (580) 255-7042

Arts Roundup Exhibition & Sale Oct 9-16, Simmons Center. (580) 252-2559

ELK CITY

PRCA Rodeo of Champions Sept 3-5, Beutler Brothers Arena. (580) 225-0207

Fall Festival Sept 18-19, Civic Center. (580) 225-0207

Oklahoma State Fiddlers Oct 28-30, Holiday Inn. (405) 685-1644

ENID

Garfield County Fair Sept 7-11, Fairgrounds. (580) 237-0238

Cherokee Strip Days Celebration Sept 18, Downtown. (580) 237-2494

The Legacy of the Middle East Oct 1-21, Museum of the Cherokee Strip. (580) 237-1907

FAIRVIEW

Major County Fair Sept 9-11, Fairgrounds. (580) 227-3786

Threshing Bee Sept 24-26, Major County Historical Complex. (580) 227-2265

Oklahoma Fall Bike Fest Oct 8-10, Specht Park. (918) 592-2453

GROVE

Civic Center 1720 S Main St. Sept 24-26, Pelican Festival. Oct 16, Genealogy Conference. (918) 786-6107

Harvest Moon Cruise Night Sept 25, Community Center. (918) 786-9079

GUTHRIE

Roads Celebration Sept 11, Mineral Wells Park. (405) 282-1947

Oklahoma's International Bluegrass Festival Sept 30-Oct 2, Cottonwood Flats. (405) 282-4446

Scottish Rite Medieval Festival Oct 30-31, 900 E Oklahoma. (405) 282-1281

LAWTON

Comanche Nation Complex 584 NW Bingo Rd. Sept 24-26, Comanche Nation Fair. Oct 30, Comanche Nation Safe House. (580) 492-4988

Buffalo Auction Sept 16, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. (580) 429-3222

International Festival Sept 24-26, Library Plaza. (580) 581-3471

1830s Fur Trade Encampment Sept 29-Oct 2, Museum of the Great Plains. (580) 581-3460

MUSKOGEE

Five Civilized Tribes Museum Agency Hill on Honor Heights Dr. Sept 6-11, Celebrating Creek Traditions. Sept 20-25, Celebrating Cherokee Traditions. Oct 3-31, The Masters Art Show. Oct 17, Garrard Best Play Prize. (918) 683-1701

Bedouin Shrine Circus Sept 18-19, Civic Center. (918) 682-2761

Haunted Castle Oct 1-31, The Castle of Muskogee. (918) 687-3625

NORMAN

Cleveland County Fairgrounds 615 E Robinson. Oct 2, Creative Craft Festival. Oct 30, Fall Inter-Tribal Gourd Dance. (405) 360-4721

Little River Zoo 3405 SE 120th Ave. Sept 18, Junior Zookeepers Oklahoma Wildlife Program. Oct 16, Junior Zookeepers Spooky Animals. (405) 366-7229

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History 2401 Chautauqua Ave. Sept 1-Oct 31, Structures of Nature: Photographs by Andreas Feininger. Sept 23-Oct 28, Margaret Mead Traveling Film & Video Festival. Oct 1-10, Amazonian Biodiversity Through the Eyes of Amphibians & Reptiles. (405) 325-4712

Gallery Talk Sept 12, Jacobson House Native Art Center. (405) 366-1667

Red Dirt Dutch Oven Cook-off Oct 2, Lake Thunderbird State Park. (405) 321-4633

Little River Zoo Safari Scramble Oct 11, The Trails Golf & Athletic Club. (405) 366-7229

OKLAHOMA CITY

Blue Door 2805 N McKinley Ave. Sept 11, Kate Campbell. Sept 17, Beaver Nelson CD Release. Sept 18, Peter Mayer. Oct 2, Bruce Robison. Oct 14, Bill Morrisey. (405) 524-0738

Myriad Botanical Gardens 301 W Reno. Sept 1-Oct 31, Extreme Container Gardens Exhibit. Oct 7-9, Orchids in October. (405) 297-3995

Nat'l Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum 1700 NE 63rd. Sept 1-6, Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition & Sale. Sept 25-Oct 31, Traditional Cowboy Arts Association Exhibition & Sale. (405) 478-2250

Omniplex 2100 NE 52nd St. Sept 1-6, Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body. Sept 1-Oct 14, Bugs! (405) 602-6664

State Fair Park I-44 & NW 10th St. Sept 16-26, Oklahoma State Fair. Sept 17, Nat'l Championship Dirt Track Races. Oct 10-17, Grand Nat'l Morgan Show. Oct 24-31, US Team Roping Championship. Oct 29-31, An Affair of the Heart. (405) 948-6704

Portraits of Survival Sept 1-Oct 31, Oklahoma City Nat'l Memorial. (405) 235-3313

Arts Festival Oklahoma Sept 3-6, Oklahoma City Community College. (405) 682-7579

Oklahoma Bicycle Society Streak Sept 12, Putnam City North High School. (405) 794-9796

Tole Country Sept 22-25, Clarion Convention Center. (405) 376-9735

Lincoln Terrace Home Tour & Show House Sept 25-26, Lincoln Terrace. (405) 319-0091

Komen Race for the Cure Oct 16, Bricktown Ballpark. (405) 848-2873

Haunt the Zoo for Halloween Oct 26-31, Oklahoma City Zoo. (405) 424-3344

OKMULGEE

Okmulgee/Dripping Springs State Park 5 Miles West of Okmulgee on S.H. 56. Sept 10-11, Septemberfest. Sept 25-26, Charity Trail Ride. (918) 756-5971

Indian Art Festival Oct 2, Creek Council House Museum. (918) 756-2324

PRYOR

Mayes County Fair Sept 9-13, Fairgrounds. (918) 825-3241

DAM JAM Bicycle Tour Sept 11, Whitaker Park. (918) 825-0157

EXPO 2004 Oct 2-3, MidAmerica Expo Center. (918) 825-3500

SAYRE

Route 66 Hoot & Scoot Sept 25, Downtown. (580) 928-2514

Dyson Family Bluegrass Festival Oct 8-10, S.H. 152 West. (580) 928-5909

Ray Hunt Horsemanship Clinic Oct 16-18, Lynn Hickey Farms. (580) 928-5352

SHAWNEE

Unveiling Ancient Mystery: Etruscan Treasures Sept 1-Oct 31, Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art. (405) 878-5300

The Creek on Pennsylvania Avenue

when you drive down penn
at night in the summer,
you need to cut your AC,
open your window
(i don't care if it's hot;
hey.
this is the night.)
because

you go down a little dip
over a bridge
(did you know there was a bridge there?)
and a cool damp
blows up the hairs on your arm
and draws into your nostrils,
a friendly spirit.

and you'll remember
that underneath your hard,
unfeeling wheels,
out of sight of the electricity
that thinks it's upstaging the moon,
the wild wide land
still waits for you.

—Mary Catherine Reynolds

Mary Catherine Reynolds sings with the jazz band Miss Brown to You in and around Oklahoma City.

Pottawatomie County Free Fair Sept 8-11, Expo Center. (405) 273-6092

All-American Fall Home & Craft Show Sept 10-12, Shawnee Mall. (405) 878-0077

TAHLEQUAH

Cherokee Heritage Center East on Willis Road off U.S. 62. Sept 1-25, Southwest Homelands & Traditions. Sept 2-5, Trail of Tears Drama. Sept 3-5, Cherokee National Holiday. Sept 11, Oct 23, Traditional Art Class. Oct 2-31, Homecoming Art Show & Sale. Oct 7-8, Ancient Days. Oct 9-10, Kanuche Festival. Oct 30, Genealogy Conference. (918) 456-6007

Keetoowah Celebration Oct 1-3, Keetoowah Community Services Building. (918) 456-6533

TALIHINA

Lions Club Street Carnival Oct 2, Downtown. (918) 567-3434

Fall Foliage Festival Oct 30-31, Old Gymnasium. (918) 567-3434

Mountain Gateway Tractor Club Show Oct 30-31, Talihina High School Grounds. (918) 567-3911

TULSA

Expo Square 4145 E 21st St. Sept 4-6, Oklahoma Palomino Horse Show. Sept 9-12, Drysdale's National Barrel Horse Association Super Show. Sept 10-12, Tulsa Antique Show. Sept 10-12, Tulsa House Beautiful. Sept 16-23, American Miniature Horse Registry National Show. Sept 17-18, USAC Silver Crown Car Races. Oct 23, Alpaca Llama Central Regionals. Oct 23-24, Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show. Oct 28-31, Tulsa Area Cluster Dog Show. Oct 29-31, Free RV and Boat Show. Oct 30-31, High Plains Paso Fino Horse Show. Oct 30-31, Oklahoma POA Horse Show. Oct 30-31, Rock & Mineral Show. (918) 744-1113

Tulsa Performing Arts Center 110 E 2nd St. Sept 1-5, The Who's Tommy. Sept 10, R. James Woolsey. Sept 10-12, The Sound of Music. Sept 17-19, A Midsummer Night's Dream. Sept 17-19, 23-25, To Kill a Mockingbird. Sept 27, Whirling Dervishes of Rumi. Oct 1-2, Bunnicula. Oct 3, Pacifica String Quartet. Oct 8-9, Tiller's Folly. Oct 9, 15, 17, Madama Butterfly. Oct 10-24, Chicago. Oct 11, Armchair Traveler: Italy's Fabled Islands. Oct 12, A Celebration of Jelly Roll Morton's Ragtime. Oct 31, Arianna String Quartet. (918) 596-7122

Greek Holiday Festival Sept 23-25, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. (918) 583-2082

America's Walk for Diabetes Sept 25, Memorial High School. (918) 492-3839

National Rose Show & Convention Oct 14-17, Crowne Plaza Hotel. (918) 227-1954

ShalomFest Oct 17, Temple Israel. (918) 749-7243

VINITA

Big Country Weekend Sept 10-11, American Legion Rodeo Complex. (918) 256-7133

Civil War Battles of Cabin Creek Sept 24-26, 10 Miles South of Vinita on 4410 Road. (918) 256-7133

Oktoberfest Oct 9, Holy Ghost Catholic Church. (918) 256-7118

OUT & ABOUT

ANTLERS Deer Festival & Outdoor Show, Oct. 1-2, Pushmataha County Fair Buildings. (580) 298-6013

APACHE Festival of the West, Oct 1-3, Fairgrounds & Apache Park. (580) 588-3862

ARCADIA Heritage Rodeo & Festival, Sept 3-5, Municipal Park. (405) 396-2899

BARTLESVILLE Tulsa Regional Fly-In, Sept 17-18, Bartlesville Municipal Airport. (918) 622-8400

BARTLESVILLE Oklahoma Indian Summer, Sept 17-19, Community Center. (918) 534-1434

BENNINGTON MasterWorks Sawdust Festival, Oct 1-3, 36613 U.S. 70. (817) 472-6991

BILLINGS Wheat Country Festival, Sept 25, Main St. & City Park. (580) 725-3258

BOISE CITY Santa Fe Trail Tour, Oct 2, Cimarron County. (580) 544-3479

BRISTOW Nuyaka Creek Harvest Fest, Sept 18, Nuyaka Creek Winery. (918) 756-8485

BROKEN ARROW Antique Bottle & Collectible Show, Oct 9, Community Center. (918) 687-4150

BROKEN ARROW Fun & Games on Main, Oct 30, Main Street. (918) 251-2265

BUFFALO Selman Ranch Cattle Drive, Oct 2-3, Selman Ranch. (580) 256-2006

CARNEGIE Canna Festival, Sept 25, City Park. (580) 654-2475

CHANDLER Lincoln County Trade Days, Sept 17-19, Oct 15-17, Fairgrounds & Tilghman Park. (405) 258-3215

CHECOTAH Okrafest!, Sept 11, Downtown. (918) 473-4178

CHICKASHA Oklahoma State Fiddlers Show, Sept 12, Oct 10, Borden Community Center. (405) 224-4261

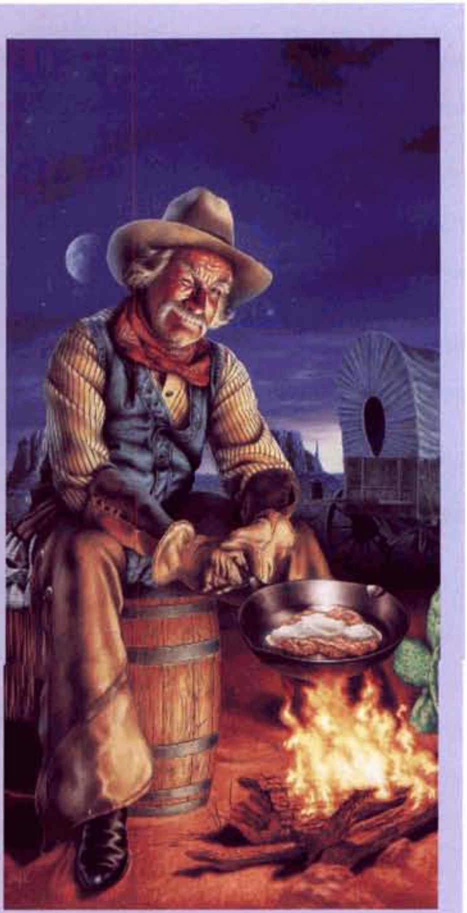
CHICKASHA Neewollah Festival, Oct 31, Downtown. (405) 224-0787

CHOCTAW Oktoberfest, Sept 9-11, Old Germany Restaurant. (405) 390-8647

CLAREMORE Bluegrass & Chili Festival, Sept 9-11, Expo Center. (918) 341-2818

CLAREMORE Cowboy Trade Day, Sept 18, Will Rogers Stampede Arena. (918) 341-6985

CLARITA Amish Auction, Craft & Antique Sale, Sept 11, Ben Troyer Farm. (580) 428-3458
CLEVELAND Pioneer Day, Sept 18, Downtown. (918) 358-2131
CLEVELAND Antique, Classic & Muscle Car Swap Meet & Car Show, Oct 1-3, Feyodi Creek Park. (918) 358-3506
COLLINSVILLE Founder's Day, Sept 11, Downtown. (918) 371-4703
COLONY Cheyenne-Arapaho Labor Day Powwow, Sept 3-6, Colony Park. (405) 929-0551
CORDELL Pumpkin Festival, Oct 9, Downtown Square. (580) 832-3538
CUSHING Festival in the Park, Oct 9, Memorial Park. (918) 225-2400
DAVIS Turner Falls Arts & Crafts Show, Oct 2-3, Turner Falls Park. (580) 369-2402
DEL CITY Oklahoma Bluegrass Club Concert, Oct 2, 2300 S Linda Lane. (405) 677-1509
DISNEY The Elijah Factor, Sept 1-25, Picture in Scripture Amphitheater. (918) 435-8207
DRUMRIGHT Oil Patch Jamboree & Jamboree Jog, Oct 2, Whitlock Park. (918) 352-2631
DURANT Fort Washita Ghost Stories, Oct 28-30, Fort Washita Historic Site. (580) 924-6502
EDMOND Return to Route 66: Photographs from the Mother Road, Sept 1-Oct 9, Edmond Historical Society Museum. (405) 340-0078
EDMOND A Midsummer Night's Dream, Sept 1-5, Hafer Park. (405) 340-1222
EL RENO Tombstone Tales, Sept 25, Fort Reno. (405) 262-3987
FORT COBB Smoke on the Water, Sept 11-12, Fort Cobb State Park. (405) 641-6386
GUYMON Panhandle Pork Days, Oct 9, Citywide. (580) 338-9767
HARTSHORNE Hard Times Festival, Oct 8-9, Downtown. (918) 297-2382
HASKELL Green Country Wine Festival, Sept 25, Stone Bluff Cellars Winery. (918) 482-5655
HEAVENER Peter Conser Quilt Show, Oct 9, Peter Conser Home. (918) 653-2493
HINTON Hinton Arts & Crafts Festival, Sept 18, Fairgrounds. (405) 542-3433
HOBART Kiowa County Free Fair, Sept 9-11, Kiowa County Fairgrounds. (580) 726-5643
HOLDENVILLE Hog Wild Day Festival & Car Show, Oct 2, Stroup Park. (405) 379-6675
JENKS Hallowmarine, Oct 28-31, Oklahoma Aquarium. (918) 296-3474
JET Women's Fishing Clinic, Oct 16, Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. (580) 626-4794
KETCHUM Nat'l Hook-N-Cook-off, Sept 25, Pelican Landing. (918) 782-3214
KINGFISHER Victorian Accessories Workshop, Sept 11, Chisholm Trail Museum. (405) 375-5176
KINGFISHER Victorian Fashion Show & Luncheon, Oct 9, Women's Building. (405) 375-5176
KINGSTON Oklahoma Golf 2-Person Scramble, Sept 25-26, Chickasaw Pointe Golf Resort. (580) 564-2581
LAVERNE Fall Festival, Sept 25, Downtown. (580) 921-3613
MARLOW Second Chance Trade Days Communitywide Garage Sale, Sept 10-11, Citywide. (580) 658-2212
McALESTER OSP Outlaw Rodeo, Sept 3-4, Oklahoma State Penitentiary. (918) 423-2550
McLOUD Chili Cook-off, Oct 16, Veteran's Park, (405) 964-2960
MIAMI Main Street Motocross, Sept 10-11, Ottawa County Fairgrounds. (918) 542-1590



FROM MASSES TO INDIVIDUAL

Frank Lloyd Wright succinctly defined art as "what sells," but that simplicity doesn't do much to separate the squabbling twins of fine and commercial art. That distinction is the hinge upon which a new show, Bruce Eagle: From Advertising to Art, will swing when it opens this fall in Oklahoma City at the JRB Art at the Elms gallery.

Eagle, an *Oklahoma Today* contributor whose illustrations have appeared in the magazine, views the tension between fine and commercial art in straightforward terms. "With fine art, only one person has to like it, and with commercial art, the image has to speak to a mass number of people," he says.

Completely self taught, Eagle worked his way into Hollywood's highly competitive illustration market during his time in Los Angeles from 1987 to 1992, creating hundreds of images for movie posters and promotional art for Disney Studios and other clients, including work on films like *Fantasia*, *Pinocchio*, and *White Fang*.

Commercial art and fine art share one important family trait—somebody has to appreciate it enough to buy it. "Commercial art depends on the market. You've got to be able to paint what sells," Eagle says. "You always hold your breath. They have to like it, or you do it over."

Among the commercial and fine art pieces included in Bruce Eagle: From Advertising to Art, visitors are sure to find much to like.

—Terri Cook

Bruce Eagle: From Advertising to Art will run at JRB Art at the Elms from September 18 through October 20. 2810 North Walker in Oklahoma City, (405) 528-3336.

MIDWEST CITY Global Oklahoma, Oct 2, Rose State College. (405) 736-0313

NEWKIRK Charlie Adams Western Day Barbecue, Sept 11, Endicott Park. (580) 362-2377

PAULS VALLEY Wild Horse & Burro Adoption Day, Sept 14, Oct 12, BLM Adoption Center. (405) 790-1009

PAWHUSKA Former Texas Playboys Reunion, Sept 10-11, Fairgrounds. (918) 287-3316

PAWNEE Dick Tracy Day & Parade, Oct 2, Downtown. (918) 762-2108

PERKINS Central Oklahoma Tribal Society Fall Encampment, Sept 18-19, Tribal Powwow Grounds. (405) 742-4425

PERRY Cherokee Strip Celebration, Sept 18, Downtown. (580) 336-4684

PONCA CITY Marland Estate, 901 Monument Road. Sept 10-11, Country Harvest Craft & Antique Festival. Oct 2-3, Oktoberfest. (580) 767-0420

POTEAU Le Flore County Fair, Sept 10-11, Fairgrounds. (918) 962-5456

RENTIESVILLE Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival, Sept 3-5, Down Home Blues Museum. (918) 473-2411

SAPULPA Concert on the Corner, Sept 16, Downtown. (918) 224-5709

SHATTUCK Ellis County Fair, Sept 9-11, Fairgrounds. (580) 885-7775

STILLWATER Orange Peel, Sept 10, Boone Pickens Stadium. (405) 744-8393

STILLWATER OSU Homecoming, Oct 8-16, Citywide. (405) 744-7386

STROUD King Arthur Faire, Oct 2-3, Stroud Lake. (918) 968-0459

STROUD Hallow-lujah Trail, Oct 30-31, First Baptist Church. (918) 968-2516

SULPHUR Murray County Free Fair, Sept 1-3, Murray County Expo Center. (580) 622-3016

SULPHUR Artists of the Arbuckles Invitational Show, Oct 13-17, 303 W Muskogee. (580) 622-2216

TECUMSEH Frontier Days, Sept 15-18, Downtown. (405) 598-8666

TISHOMINGO Chickasaw Meeting & Festival, Sept 25-Oct 3, Pennington Park. (580) 371-2175

TONKAWA Wheatheart Festival, Oct 23, Blinn Park. (580) 628-2220

TUSKAHOMA Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival, Sept 3-6, Citywide. (580) 924-8280

VIAN Tenkiller State Park, 8 Miles North of Gore on S.H. 100. Sept 3-5, Labor Day Blast. Oct 23, Halloween Haunted Hayride. (918) 489-5641

WAGONER Western Hills Guest Ranch, 8 Miles East of Wagoner on S.H. 51. Oct 16, Green Country Jamboree. Oct 30, Great Pumpkin Egg Hunt. (918) 772-2545

WILBURTON Robbers Cave State Park, 2300 Park Cabins Road. Sept 4, OETRA Competition Trail Ride. Oct 15-17, Fall Festival. (918) 465-2565

WOODWARD Photography Competition, Sept 4-Oct 30, Plains Indians & Pioneer Museum. (580) 256-6136

WOODWARD Fall-A-Days, Oct 15-17, Fairgrounds. (580) 256-4101

WYNNEWOOD Arbuckle Mountain Park, Exit 60 off Interstate 35. Sept 8-11, Bluegrass Festival. Oct 20-23, Fall Bluegrass Jam & Craft Show. (405) 665-5226

Visit oklahomatoday.com or travelok.com for more listings.

Dates and times are subject to change; please confirm before attending any event. The Events Guide is a free service published on a space-available basis. To be considered, please mail a notice of the event that includes date, place, address, and both a contact telephone number and a phone number that can be published. Notices must arrive at *Oklahoma Today* three calendar months prior to publication (i.e. January/February 2004 events must arrive by October 1). Events Guide, Oklahoma Today, 15 North Robinson, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Fax: (405) 522-4588. Email: eventsguide@oklahomatoday.com. We cannot take listings over the telephone.

ANSWERS TO SPORTS TRIVIA: PAGE 73

1. C, Billy Vessels 2. A, Wayman Tisdale 3. B, Mickey Mantle 4. A, Bertha Frank Teague 5. D, Mexico 6. D, Ada 7. B, Myron Roderick 8. B, Jim Thorpe 9. A, Johnny Bench 10. B, Mark and Brent Price

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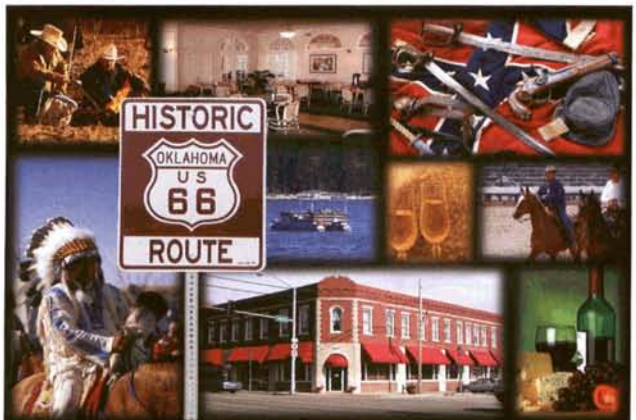


Vinita Oklahoma

Coming Events

➤ **Big Country Weekend**
featuring the **25th Anniversary Calf Fry Festival**, September 10 & 11

➤ **The Battle of Cabin Creek**
Civil War Battle Re-enactment, September 25 & 26

www.vinita.com / 918-256-7133

Sept. 10–11 Miami Main Street Motocross, Ottawa County Fairgrounds. (918) 542-1590.

Sept. 17–18 Designs of Autumn Fall Festival/Chamber Chili Cook Off. Two days of food, fun and entertainment! (918) 542-4481.

Oct. 31 Boo Ha Ha Parade, Coleman Theatre Mystery Tours

Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
111 N. Main • Miami, OK
(918) 542-4435

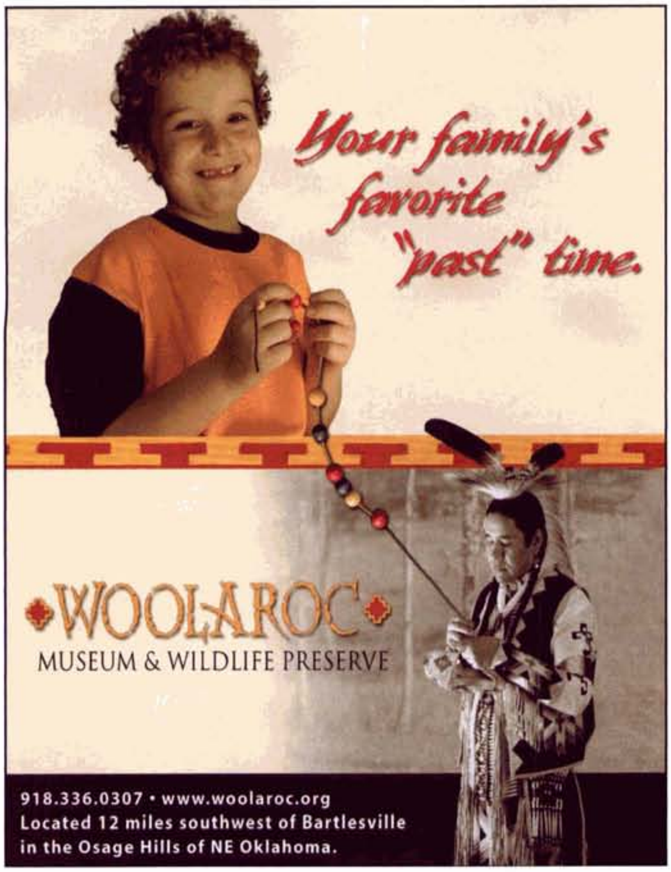
www.visitmiamiok.com

Explore the History & Art of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, & Seminole Tribes.

- Sept. 6-11 *Celebrating Creek Traditions*
- Sept. 15-20 *Artrain, USA*
- Sept. 20-25 *Celebrating Cherokee Traditions*
- Oct. 3-31 *The Masters Art Show*
- Oct. 17 *Garrard Best Play Prize*

The Five Civilized Tribes Museum

Agency Hill on Honor Heights Drive
Muskogee, OK 74401
Monday - Saturday, 10-5
Sunday, 1-5
www.fivetribes.org
(918) 683-1701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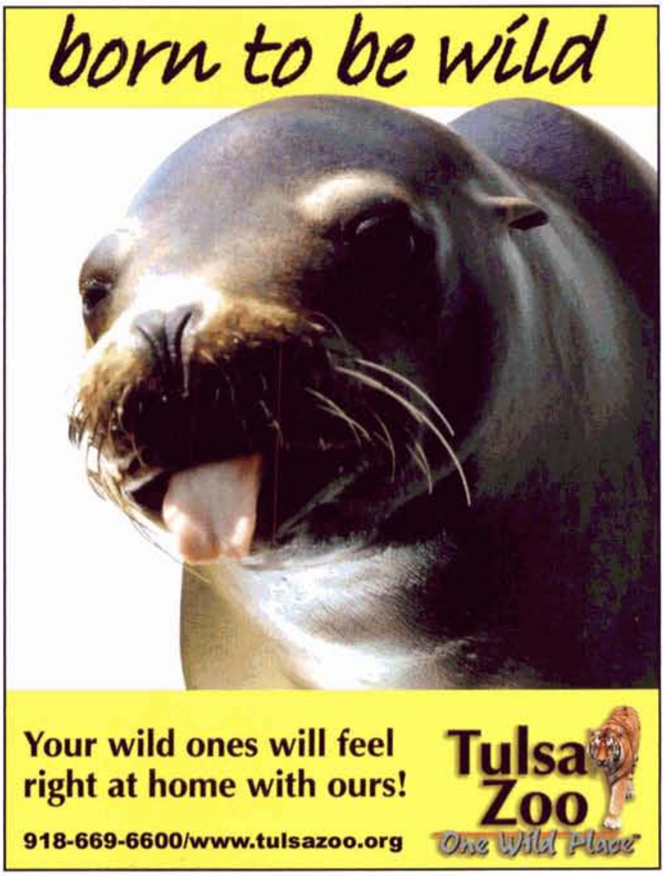
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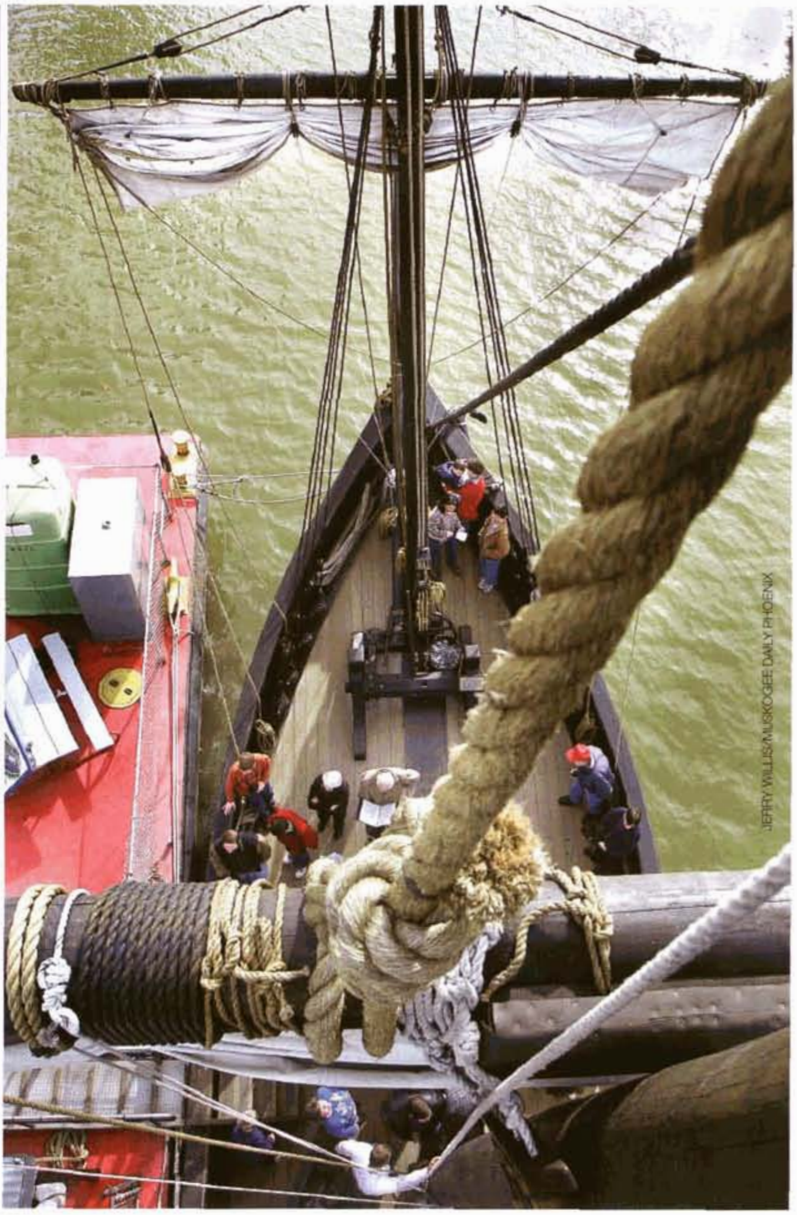
"It's a thrill to be on it, a very fast vessel and slick in the water."—**Morgan Sanger, the *Niña's* captain**



JERRY WILLIS/MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX

The Niña Docks at Three Forks

IN MUSKOGEE, A HISTORICALLY ACCURATE REPLICA OF COLUMBUS'S SHIP

A NAVIGABLE MISSISSIPPI RIVER WAS NOTHING MORE than a faraway future when Christopher Columbus first reached the West Indies. While the explorer never made it to the mainland of North America, the *Niña*—his ninety-three-foot caravel—has traversed the slow waters of the Mississippi dozens of times.

A replica of the *Niña*, that is. On October 1, 2004, the ship, the most historically accurate reincarnation of any of Columbus's ships, will make its last official stop at Three Rivers Harbor in Muskogee before retiring to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

"They're coming back here because Muskogee was their most successful tour ever," says Muskogee Port Authority grounds maintenance supervisor Lewis McLemore. More than 30,000 people toured the *Niña* when it visited Muskogee in 2001.

The *Niña* was built in the late-1980s in anticipation of the five hundredth anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the New World. The ship later appeared in a 1992 Ridley Scott film, *1492: Conquest of Paradise*. Organizers say the ship offers an intimate portrait of Columbus: His favorite of the three Spanish sailing vessels (including the *Santa Maria* and *Pinta*), the *Niña* was home to the Italian for many a night—he traveled more than 25,000 miles on its deck.

—Joel Everett

The Niña *will be at Three Forks Harbor from October 1 to 31. For group reservations, call (561) 301-9692. thenina.com.*

Bottom left, the *Niña's* captain Morgan Sanger. Right, a view from the top of the main mast from the ship's 2001 visit to Muskogee.

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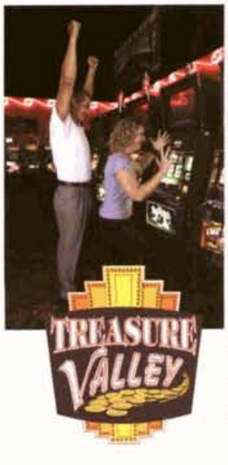

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